

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF A  
Kidnapped Orphan.

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*Our Orphan's Fate, a hapless Fate,  
Let ev'ry Youth deplore;  
Condemn'd, by base insidious Arts,  
To quit his native Shore.  
Expos'd on Foreign Sands he lies,  
And yields his latest Breath,  
Unwept by those unpitying Eyes  
That doom'd him first to Death.*

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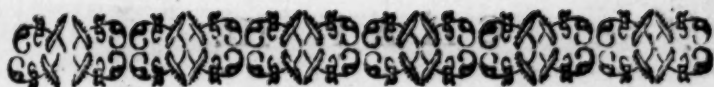
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narrative.



CHAP.

INTRO



## INTRODUCTION.

**T**H E many flagrant violations that have been attempted on the liberties of free-born English subjects, by mercenary hirelings and abandoned miscreants, who with hearts steeled against every impression of humanity, make a trade of selling their fellow-creatures to slavery, and thereby subjecting them and their relatives to the most agonizing woe; having recalled to my memory the peculiar case of a friend, who unhappily fell a victim to their accursed frauds; I determined to lay it before the public, in order to enhance their detestation of such despicable means of living,

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ing, and guard unwary youth from falling into their crafty snares.

The opportunities which my employment in life has afforded of being an eye-witness to the distresses of my countrymen, will enable me to set forth their aggravated circumstances, as attested facts, and must obviate those doubts that naturally arise from want of evidence, and are the offspring of report, conjecture, and surmise.

Liberty is one of the greatest blessings of human life, and essentially requisite to its true enjoyment. Freedom is the glory of a rational mind, and indispensably necessary to the proper discharge of its various functions: therefore under a deprivation of these glorious, these invaluable privileges, despair must fill the active soul, and the mind must degenerate into a state of stupid drowsiness, when absorbed in the contemplation of its remediless misery.

Perhaps, upon due reflection, no character can be more odious, or indeed injurious

jurious to society, than that of a Kidnapper or Crimp; the Highwayman demands your money at the hazard of his life; the Gambler picks your pocket, but leaves it at your option to be a second time trepanned; the Slanderer traduces your character, but cannot deprive you of the means of vindicating it; but the Kidnapper robs the ignorant, unsuspecting person of the very rank in creation, he was entitled to fill, and infamously sells that liberty which was his birthright, his boast, his glory, as a subject to the crown of England.

Besides, this vile practice may deprive the community of many valuable members, and consign those to the most servile offices in life, who were by nature and birth adapted to fill the highest and most important.

To recount the evils that result to mankind in general, and to individuals in particular, from this unjust attempt on their liberty, is almost impossible; as

they are so various in their nature, and so aggravated in their degrees; waving therefore any further detail on that point, I presume to hope that the series of misfortunes which was experienced by the subject of the following narrative is equally conducive to instruction and entertainment.

If upon the whole it should sensibly touch the generous mind; if it should draw the tear of pity from the eye of inhumanity, or cause the relentless breast to melt with compassion; if it tends to the detection of one villain, or the preservation of one innocent, the Editor will esteem it an ample compensation for the pains he has taken, in digesting the various circumstances that have occurred, during the long exile and slavery of an unfortunate friend, as well as the many grievances to which thousands are at this day exposed in foreign climes, from the base arts that are still practised, by the more than brutal in human form.



It will be necessary to premise, that the Editor, being an officer in the naval service, and on a voyage to divers settlements belonging to the English in the East-Indies; happened one morning when the troops were drawn up at Calcutta, to observe one amongst them, in whose face he discovered some traces of the features of an old school-fellow, for whom, during his minority, he had conceived the warmest friendship of which a youthful mind can be susceptible. Determined to gratify his curiosity concerning the identity of his supposed friend; as soon as the corps had gone through their discipline, and obtained their discharge from present duty, he accosted the poor soldier by his name, in order to be convinced at once of the validity of his suspicion. He had no sooner mentioned his name, than his exiled friend looked him stedfastly in the face, and soon recognized the companion of his juvenile, his happy hours,

but

but was prevented, by a torrent of tears, from giving him an immediate answer. At length the mixture of joy, grief, and surprise, which agitated his mind, having found vent, they passed mutual congratulations on the unexpected interview, and retired to a convenient place, in order to recount to each other the various incidents that had befallen them since their separation from school.

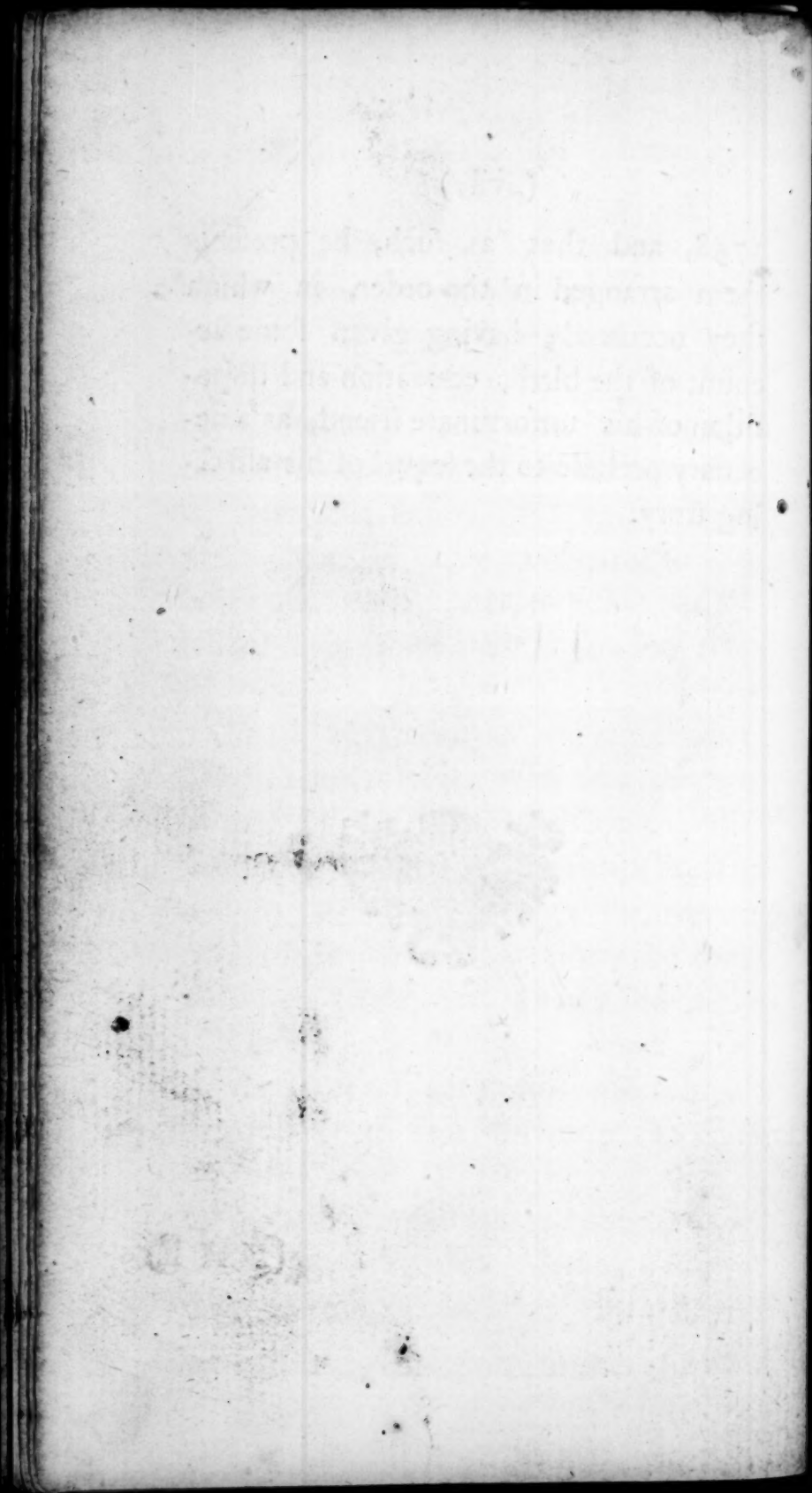
As the adventures of the unfortunate Mr. Thomas Page, who was decoyed by one of the infamous Crimps, that have long infested this metropolis, and sold to slavery, in climes far remote from his native country, where he could obtain no relief, and suffered indignities that drove him to despair, which proved the cause of his death, will compose the subject of this volume; the Editor begs leave to inform the reader, that each circumstance was verbally communicated to him, during a stay of four months at Calcutta, in the year

( vii )

1758, and that as such, he presents them arranged in the order, in which they occurred; having given some account of the birth, education and disposition of his unfortunate friend, as a necessary prelude to the sequel of his affecting story.



THE






T H E  
A D V E N T U R E S  
O F A  
Kidnapped Orphan.



C H A P. I.

Birth and education of Mr. Page, with the circumstances that befel him, previous to his being decoyed.—The method by which he was trepanned, and secured on board a vessel bound for the East-Indies.

 H E unfortunate person, whose adventures will fill the following sheets, had every prospect of happiness in his juvenile days, that the most affectionate parents, with an opulent



opulent fortune could afford. Descended from a race of worthy progenitors, in the county of Northampton, he was put to the acquirement of useful knowledge as soon as his years would admit of instruction, and gave such an indication of a good head and a good heart, as rendered him the delight of his parents, who without the redundant fopperies of a court, inherited all the benevolence and hospitality of rustic merit. Trained under such examples, his mind was early formed to virtue, and he imbibed such principles as do honour to human nature, and render the possessors the admiration of mankind.

As soon as he arrived at a proper age, he was sent to the grammar school, and made so considerable a progress in literature, that before he attained to thirteen years, he was qualified for the superior offices in life, and evinced an apprehension of things in general, far above any of his cotemporaries.

To

To his abilities were added a sweetness of disposition and lenity of temper, that obviated the envy of his school-fellows, and secured their esteem, so that he was at once the object of their love and respect. When his education was deemed complete for any of the ordinary callings, his father, resolving to put him to some employ, though he could leave him an ample fortune, began to consult his own disposition, concerning the occupation in which he would chuse to spend that time, which is too precious to be wasted in one perpetual round of idleness and dissipation. But at this important crisis, a malignant fever deprived him of a most affectionate parent, and society of a most valuable member, who died universally lamented, and left behind him an example of piety untainted by enthusiasm, charity unsullied by ostentation, and virtue unattended by rigid stoicism.

On the demise of his father, the care of our Orphan and his sister devolved  
solely

solely on his mother, who inherited the virtues of her deceased husband, and formed his laudable resolution of training her children in those paths that lead to their present and future happiness. This noble purpose she would doubtless have executed, had she not soon followed her beloved consort to the silent grave, and cruel death rendered my hapless friend and his orphan sister, destitute of a tender and virtuous mother.

The children were consigned, by Mrs. Page's will, to the care of her brother, a gentleman of competent fortune, who lived near Daventry. Mr. Vale (for that was his name) who had always highly esteemed his nephew and niece, now conceived an affection for them, adopted them as his own children, and together with his spouse, gave them every token of parental fondness.

Two years having elapsed, Mr. Vale proposed to his nephew the study of the law, which if he chose not to follow

follow afterwards as a profession, would useful to him in the direction and management of his own private fortune. Accordingly he was sent up to London, with the strongest recommendation from his uncle to a gentleman near Lincoln's Inn, as eminent for his goodness as a man, as his skill in the theory and practice of the law.

Having been bred in the country, and therefore little versed in the frauds of the metropolis; he had not continued with his intended master a month, before he fell a prey to the base arts of one of those villains, who without regard to age or condition, involve in ruin and misery all that chance or search may throw in their way.

Wandering one evening into the fields near Islington, he was observed by an infamous Crimp, who was sauntering about in quest of prey, and being willing to know whether he was fit for his purpose, asked him several questions, relative to

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the customs of the town, and soon found by his replies, that he was an absolute stranger, and a proper object for him to work upon. This fellow dressed in a regimental uniform, passed for a commissioned officer, and assumed the character of Captain, in order to disguise his damnable design and impose on the ignorant and credulous. As such our Orphanesteemed him; for having acquired some common place compliments, and formal punctilios of behaviour; he entertained not the least suspicion of his horrid intent, and therefore lay open to his beguiling snares.

As they passed along near Sadler's-wells, he enquired of this strange gentleman (as he supposed him) concerning that place, into which he observed so many people enter; the Captain informed him, that it was set apart for divers entertainments during the summer season, and that if he had any curiosity to know the particulars, he would do himself  
the



the pleasure, as he was a stranger, of accompanying him thither.

The unsuspecting Youth accepted his offer, and they went together to that place of entertainment; but on a general observation of the different species of diversion, he discovered rather disgust than approbation, and concluded upon the whole, that it was a meer representation of farce and mummery.

When the performance drew towards a close, he discovered some concern at being absent from home at a late hour, as he then deemed it, though just turned of nine, and expressed his ignorance of the readiest way in town.

This afforded the Crimp an opportunity of promoting his detestable purpose, of which he did not fail to avail himself; for, informing him that he intended to hire a coach, he begged that he would let him set him down at his own door, by which he must pass in his way home. Imputing that to courtsey, which was the result of fraud, the artless youth readi-

ly embraced the proposal, and accompanied the ensnaring villain into a coach, delighted with the prospect of a speedy conveyance to town, and secure arrival at the house of his uncle's friend, who he knew was at that moment in the utmost anxiety on account of his absence. But alas! mistaken innocent! from that unhappy hour thy chains were forging; and this was the prelude to thy future woes.

It was now dark, and our Orphan, from his ignorance of the town, could not distinguish one street from another, insomuch that while he thought each step conducted him nearer and nearer to his much-desired home; he was gradually approaching the Crimp's house, near Tower-hill, where he soon arrived, to his inexpressible surprise.

When he alighted and found himself in a strange place, words cannot express the confused state of his mind, but the artful villain bid him take courage; for, that though the coachman had, through  
neglect,

neglect, passed his father's house, he would make it his business, if he would walk in and stay a few minutes, to see himself safely lodged in his own habitation.

Amused by this promise, he entered the accursed mansion, and entailed on himself remediless misery. Having drank, at the importunity of his seducer, a glass or two more than usual, it was deemed most conducive to their design, to ply him if possible with liquor; under pretence therefore of reviving his depressed spirits, the diabolical hostess presented him with a cordial which she pretended had an enlivening, though not intoxicating quality; whereas it was an opiate of the most potent nature. The cordial soon had its desired effect in lulling the poor youth into a kind of torpidude, which detained him in their house during the night, without giving any alarm, and so far contributed to their main intent.

When

When he roused from the state of stupefaction, into which the dose administered by the execrable hostess had thrown him, it was near ten in the morning, and on his hasty preparation to depart, he was stoppt by his seducer, who informed him without any kind of ceremony, that he must either resign himself to his disposal, or be immediately delivered into the hands of a press-gang, that rendezvouzed at a neighbouring house.

Unacquainted with baseness himself, as well as susceptible of every tender impression, he was at first thunderstruck at the proposal of so dreadful an alternative; but having recovered himself a little, he began to expostulate with the obdurate wretch, on the cruelty of detaining a youth that had been brought up with every degree of tenderness, from his friends, who must certainly be disconsolate on account of his absence. But all that he could urge, instead of mollifying, hardened the relentless heart of  
the

the infamous Crimp, who insisted on his choice of one or the other proposal, on the penalty of close confinement; hoping therefore that he might at length be able to obtain his dismissal, he chose to continue with him, of whose design he was as yet ignorant, rather than be delivered up to a merciless crew, which struck him with horror by their savage appearance and behaviour. Thus situated, he passed two days in the most perplexing anxiety, having in vain repeated his entreaties for liberty, almost every hour; nor was this the whole source of his misery; for the inhuman villain denied him even the knowledge of the fate to which he was reserved; and kept him in irksome suspense, till having extorted from him a promise to go quietly out with him upon condition of being permitted to return in a short time, he took him down to Tower-stairs about midnight, put him in a boat, and rowed down the river, where a vessel lay at anchor, having on board many other



other miserable beings destined to the same state of slavery.

Here he was attended by the Crimp, who having seen him lodged safely in the hold with his fellow-sufferers, took his leave after wishing him a good voyage.

But such was the ignorance of the unfortunate Orphan, that not knowing even yet the horrid design of his infamous seducer, he enquired of the rest that had been trepanned, concerning the cause of their being consigned to that nauseous dungeon, and was given by one of them to understand, that they were the following day to be put on board a vessel, that had fallen down the river and was bound to the East-Indies, where they were to serve as soldiers, in all probability, till death closed a life of misery.

When he was made acquainted with his fate, the poignant grief of his soul stupified every sense, and he remained  
some

some time in a state of seeming insensibility; till having found vent, he shed such torrents of tears, accompanied with such heart-piercing sighs, as forced drops of sympathy from the eyes of his companions.

He continued in this piteous condition all night without closing his eyes, though he had not slept two hours at a time, since he had been trepanned; and in the morning when the allowance was brought down to the hold, refused to eat, desiring most earnestly to see the person, who had command of the vessel, or else to be allowed pen and ink, promising any one who could procure his release, all that he could ask or wish, as a reward for so generous a service.

But he could neither obtain the sight of the brutal officer, nor pen and ink, being told that all his intreaties were fruitless; that the commander of the vessel was under an indispensable obligation

tion to see his charge securely embarked on board the ship that was to carry them over, and therefore that he had better reconcile himself to his fate, and take courage, as the more he affected dissatisfaction with his condition, the more those who were set over him would oppress him with toil, and instead of pitying, deride his calamity.

At length the destined period arrived, they weighed anchor and stood down the river with a favourable gale, till they came to the Downs, where they moored the vessel along side of the ship, that was to convey these hapless creatures to the most abject slavery.

About the dusk of the evening, they were put on board to the amount of about thirty, and strictly enjoined to peaceable, quiet behaviour on pain of immediate confinement on the least noise, or even mumuring at their fate. They were permitted to walk the deck, centinels being placed on the gangways, the forecastle and poop, with  
positive

positive orders to shoot the first that should attempt to make his escape ; but night coming on were conducted below, and the hatches put over, in order to secure them in that situation.

While they lay in the Downs, our Orphan made divers efforts to obtain permission to write to his friends ; acquainted several of the officers with his birth, education, and circumstances in life, and sued for their pity and assistance in procuring his release ; but many turned a deaf ear to his entreaties, while others of more humanity pitied his case, but informed him that they should be dismissed the service if they dared to interpose.

Thus bereft of every hope, the hapless Orphan was abandoned to all the tortures of despair ; his mind being continually wrecked with reflections on his miserable condition, in being thus cruelly wrested from a situation which afforded the most pleasing prospect of future happiness  
and

piness, and consigned to a state that presented one continued scene of misery, that could end only with life itself.



## C H A P. II.

Various occurrences that happened on board the ship before they proceeded on their voyage, with the peculiar manner in which the Orphan was affected when they set sail.

**I**N a few days after these miserable objects were secured on board the ship, they were furnished with jackets, trowsers, bedding and hammocks, and had their births assigned them between decks, near the main-hatch-way. Being now deemed a part of the ship's crew, they were employed in hoisting in the cargo, and other servile offices, as well as exposed to the discipline of those maritime



maritime savages the Boatswain and his mates.

Our Orphan, instead of being exempted from this drudgery, became the object of general mockery, and as he still retained his shore dress, which was a handsome suit of superfine cloth clothes, he underwent the discipline of what they term, in the wooden world, docking, that is, cutting off the hind skirts of his coat, so that he was under a necessity of putting on the jacket, and at the same time of herding with the meanest and most despicable wretches.

Perhaps this was the most aggravated part of his woes, for he could not but view with horror the garb he was compelled to assume, and the company he was obliged to join, which were in every respect opposite to his former custom, and the disposition of his own mind.

Though ignorant of the tricks of the town, and the artifices practised by sordid men, he had imbibed, from his earliest days, the justest notions of honour,

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justice,

justice, and humanity, and therefore could not but be shocked at the scenes that were hourly presented to his view, in this habitation of noise, confusion, and bustle. His ears were offended with the sound of the most terrible execrations, and his eyes by the wanton revels of brutal drunkards : his honest indignation was often raised at the insults offered by puppies in office, both to himself and his fellow sufferers, who were not only subject to their verbal abuse, but also to that which is repugnant to the very spirit of an Englishman, blows and lashes from their fists and rattans.

In process of time, however, he was observed by a young fellow, that served on board as Midship-man, to be of a very different turn of mind from the rest of those with whom he was constrained to associate ; and this peculiar notice tended in the event to allay in some measure that grief which naturally attended his calamitous circumstances.

As

As this person, whom we shall call Manly, will be interested in many future events, it may not be deemed unnecessary to give a sketch of his character. Mr. Manly had received a classical education, and had entered on academical studies, but being inflamed by his own passions and seduced by lewd companions, he not only deserted those studies, which he pursued to qualify himself for a venerable employment, but abandoned himself to those vices and follies, which, if persisted in, never fail to bring on disease and poverty. This course of life exhausted his fortune in the space of about four years, after which, to avoid that disgrace which ever attends a reduced state in the metropolis, he entered on board a privateer, and on his return from a cruize, was recommended through the interest of a friend, to serve on board this ship as Midshipman, though he had learning and abilities to entitle him to a far superior station in life. Notwithstanding the follies and errors of

his juvenile days, Manly had a good head, and a sound heart, joined to a soul capable of the nicest sensations of honour, and a mind ever attentive to real merit.

The first instance that the Orphan discovered of this person's humanity, was his severe reprimand of the Boatswain's mate for striking him, as he was hoisting at the tackle. This occasioned the unfortunate Page to acquaint him with the state of his case, as he was walking the deck upon his watch one evening, between six and eight. Having made some apology for his intrusion, our Orphan thus addressed him :

‘ I have long waited for an opportunity, Sir, to return you my grateful  
 ‘ acknowledgment for your generous interposition in my behalf, from which  
 ‘ I am convinced you are a person of sense  
 ‘ and humanity, and emboldened to crave  
 ‘ as much of your intimacy and conversation, as the difference of our situation  
 ‘ will

' will admit. I shall, on future occasion,  
 ' enter on a detail of my hapless fate,  
 ' and therefore content myself at present,  
 ' with informing you, that I am a gentle-  
 ' man by birth and fortune; and that  
 ' my present loathsome situation is the  
 ' result of being trepanned by a villain  
 ' under the disguise of a Captain, who  
 ' left me on board the vessel, out of  
 ' which I was conveyed into this ship,  
 ' which is destined to carry me to foreign  
 ' climes, where I am to end my wretch-  
 ' ed life in the most abject slavery.'

Sensibly touched with this affecting  
 narrative, Manly could not refrain the  
 sympathetic tear; and having indulg-  
 ed the noble passion, he thus broke  
 out:

' Unhappy youth! I sincerely pity your  
 ' hard lot, and heartily condole your  
 ' misfortunes. My situation is the re-  
 ' sult of my own folly and extravagance;  
 ' but you, innocent, and deserving of  
 ' praise, have been dragged into misery  
 ' by



\* by a mercenary villain, who—' here he broke off abruptly, for the fourth Mate coming upon deck, called out, " Midshipman of the watch, have an eye upon these lubberly, soldiery scoundrels, or some of them may give us the bag, when any boat comes along side;" in the mean time, poor Page skulked down to his birth, and betook himself to his meditations in his hammock. But the following evening afforded the hapless Page, and generous Manly, an opportunity of renewing their converse, which endeared them to each other, more than any relative ties possibly could, as social connections, and the impressions of friendship, are the most indissoluble bonds of exalted minds.

To add to the pleasure, or rather alleviation of trouble, that arose from occasional converse with a rational and humane being, our Orphan discovered soon after, a valuable character amongst the wretches, that were doomed to his own lamentable fate.

This

This was an honest man, whose misfortunes had obliged him to apply to one of these Crimps, for the sake of the immediate necessities of life. He had long laboured under pining hunger, through want of business and a bad state of health, insomuch that to prevent stealing, he repair'd to a certain house near Temple bar, from whence, after he had refreshed himself for the space of two or three days, he was conducted by one of the Crimp's attendants, on board the same vessel in which Page was lodged.

Notwithstanding his poverty, he had many excellent qualities, and possessed a great soul within a meagre and emaciated body; so that he often diverted the mind of our Orphan by his sensible and striking reflections on the precarious state of human life, and the wisdom of resignation to the various events of time.

But Manly's affection for him involved him in a disgrace, that gave the mind  
of

of the generous Page, the utmost concern. The chief mate of the ship, a haughty supercilious officer, without a single amiable quality, who was one of those despicable beings, that delight in prostituting the temporary power with which they are vested, to the oppression of those who are subject to their caprice; having often observed Manly deeply engaged in conversation with the unfortunate youth, took an opportunity of reproving him, for degrading himself so low, in maintaining an intimacy with so contemptible a wretch; but the open soul of the Midshipman could not disguise the merit of his friend, and he therefore gave the Mate to understand, that from what he had discovered, there was not so worthy a character on board, and that notwithstanding his misfortunes, and the meanness of his garb, he had so many latent virtues, as if known, would recommend him to the esteem and regard of every worthy and ingenuous person.

person. The arrogant Testy, (by which name we shall call him) incensed at the reflection in which himself was included, intimated to Manly, that if he continued his freedom with Page, he should be turned before the mast, where he might have an opportunity of associating with that sort of people, whom he seemed to select as his companions, in preference to others who were well recommended, and bore the character of gentlemen.

This threatening however, could not divert the esteem of Manly from so worthy an object, which engaged his attention more and more every day, and caused the oppressive Testy to put his threat into execution, by turning him before the mast.

• Thus degraded, he was severely treated by the Boatswain, and other brutes, whose only glory is, that they are seamen, though many of them are not entitled to that appellation: Manly, having never been at sea before his cruizing expedition, was a novice in naval manœuvres,

manceuvres, and therefore to expose him, Ben Callous the Boatswain would often assign him some office that required practice and experience, and upon his refusal to undertake it, either brand him with infamous appellations, or cause him to undergo the discipline of the rattan.

The indignities offered to so generous a friend and worthy a man, upon his account, deeply affected the mind of Page, who could not conceal his grief from Manly, nor refrain from desiring him to abandon his converse, as it had been attended with such disagreeable circumstances; but Manly could by no means be prevailed on to quit, what he held invaluable, and only answered his friend in these reflections and observations.

‘ As situations and circumstances in  
 ‘ human life are for the most part for-  
 ‘ tuitous; nay, as meanness of soul is  
 ‘ too often rendered the ladder of pre-  
 ‘ ferment;



'preferment; it has long been with  
 'me an invariable maxim, my friend,  
 'to estimate mankind, not by their state,  
 'but by their disposition, and with the  
 'poet, to despise such as are

'Curs'd with those arts by which gay villains rise,  
 'And reach the heights, which honest men despise.

'Alas! how despicable is the parade;  
 'how contemptible the swagger of these  
 'salt-water bullies, who are capable of  
 'making the most servile confessions  
 'to their superiors, and frequently owe  
 'their promotion to those means, that  
 'are repugnant both to honour and  
 'virtue. Be it therefore my boast and  
 'glory, to respect merit wherever I  
 'find it, and condemn the base, how-  
 'ever dignified with external honours,  
 'or decorated with pompous orna-  
 'ments.'

In this situation Manly continued, ex-  
 posed to frequent insults from those for-  
 did wretches, who can meanly triumph  
 over dejected virtue, till the arrival of  
 Captain

Captain Bluster, the commander, who, having received a very strong recommendation of him, from one of his owners, ordered him to be restored, but reminded him, that if ever he expected preferment in the service, he must avoid all mean and low company. Manly returned him thanks for the favour, and retiring, indulged his own reflections, having determined to retaliate the insults of the Boatswain, and the unworthy treatment of the arrogant Testy, upon the first opportunity that should offer.

In order to avoid the resentment of the Mate as much as possible, it was deemed prudent not to be seen together upon deck ; by which means both Manly and his generous friend were deprived of much rational entertainment, and often rendered melancholy by their own private thoughts ; yet they continued their intercourse as much as the state of things would admit, esteeming the time of their converse the only happy moments they passed.

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The dejected state of mind, under which the unfortunate Page too frequently laboured, at length brought on him a very severe fit of illness, and his indisposition would have been greatly aggravated by the want of necessaries, had he not been most liberally supplied by his generous friend, who furnished him with wine, tea, gruel, and every salutary aid, that could contribute to his recovery.

During his illness, he was not exempted from the taunts of insolence, and reflections of inhumanity, from brutes of every rank on board, who adding horror of mind to weakness of body, rendered poor Page a most emaciated spectacle.

Amidst this poignant distress, his only relief was the occasional visits of his friend, who not only administered to all his corporal wants, but by his sensible remarks, frequently allayed the anguish of his mind. This accident likewise afforded our Orphan a convincing proof of

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the inability of an insolent pretender to physic and surgery on board, under the appellation of doctor, who without either sympathy or judgment, tortured him with the roughest usage, and instead of removing, protracted his malady. This despicable fellow was a native of Ireland, and had served his apprenticeship in an obscure village in the North, to a master, who had neither skill nor practice sufficient to afford him a competent knowledge of his profession, but with that effrontery, which is the characteristic of his country. When he arrived in London, having mustered a few pounds, he walked one of the hospitals, where, by gaping over the shoulders of those, who paid more liberally than his finances would admit, he deemed himself qualified, in the space of a year, to commence practitioner, and accordingly set up as such, on the bottom of about twenty pieces, a laced coat, and a consummate assurance. But as his shallow pretences

pretences were too conspicuous to evade public notice, he soon sunk into his primitive obscurity, and was obliged to have recourse to other motives, to sustain that parade, of which he was most passionately fond.

Having contracted an intimate acquaintance with the son of an opulent merchant, who traded to the East, he thought this young spark, elated by the immense treasure, to which he was heir, and blinded by that conceit incident to unexperienced minds, a fit object to work upon, and accordingly plied him with so many compliments, and such hyperbolical adulations, that young Philpot weighing the truth of his declarations in the scale of his own opinion, thought Doctor O'Flarty the most sensible, best bred man of the age. His affections, thus conciliated to an Hibernian sycophant, prompted him freely to declare himself ready to assist him in any point within the compass of his power, of which O'Flarty immediately avail-

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ing



ing himself, requested his interest to obtain the office of surgeon on board any ship, in which his father might be concerned. Mr. Philpot assured him of the exertion of all his interest, and palming him with five guineas, took his leave, hoping to be able to send him grateful news within the space of a week.

Nor was he disappointed in his expectation; for, six days after his promise, he had secured him a birth, and acquainting him therewith, desired his immediate attendance. The Irish adventurer punctually complied with the desire of his valuable friend; and, on declaring some embarrassment concerning the previous examination usual on such occasions, was informed to his comfort, that those affairs were always settled in cases where there was strong recommendation, and that he might obtain the common-place questions and answers, for the gratuity of a small piece of gold.

Having

Having therefore qualified himself without any knowledge, and at very little expence, he passed the examination of a venerable, learned, and impartial body, by whom being deemed in every respect equal to the office intended him, he was declared, *nemine con*, Surgeon to the ship.

Thus were the lives of many scores of persons committed to the care of a presumptuous novice, to gratify his pride, and humour the caprice of an opulent fool.

However, Mr. Page, notwithstanding the many difficulties and disadvantages under which he laboured, recovered; but alas! recovered but to be miserable, as will appear from the sequel of his adventures, which cannot but induce the humane, and sympathizing reader most ardently to wish, that this prelude to his woes had been the conclusion of a life, which as it was protracted, increased his wretchedness.

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The ship having by this time completed every part of her lading, proceeded to Spithead in order to wait for the convoy, appointed to guard the fleet to those climes, where little danger was to be apprehended. Here our Orphan observed many incidents, that served to suggest the most melancholy reflections, and embitter his grief at leaving his native country.

As the time of departure approached, many sordid beings in office grew more cruel and insolent, and seemed desirous of launching into the briny ocean, where they might exercise their ferocity, without any appeal on the part of those objects, who, for a time, were subject to their despotism. This was unhappily experienced by poor Page, who received very dreadful menaces from the officer (as he was called) appointed more immediately to superintend those unfortunate wretches; though, in reality, he was a fellow of desperate fortunes,  
and

and no better than the infamous Crimp, who was the author of his ruin.

Mr. Lieutenant, having ordered his troop upon deck one day, Page was rather tardy in complying with his command, and therefore received not only the most haughty reprimand, but a severe beating with his cane, and upon his meer attempt to remonstrate with the miscreant, was knocked down, with a solemn oath, that he would pay him ten-fold, when he got him out at sea.

Thus was he exposed to momentary insults, from the insolence of the officers, and the barbarity of the men, till all masters of vessels were summoned on board the Commodore, to receive sailing orders, and their respective signals and instructions.

This event afforded our Orphan the most perplexing apprehensions, which were greatly increased by the signals being thrown out for weighing immediately.

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All hands being called, his friend Manly, who came down to turn the people upon deck, advised him to comply with the general order, without reluctance, as Callous the boatswain would soon be amongst them, and severely punish any that might be found delinquent, being a brutal fellow, who sought every opportunity of gratifying his cruel and tyrannical disposition.

Poor Page, with an aching heart, followed his friend's advice, and joined the herd at the capstan, where his good sense and delicacy were offended by noise, blasphemy, and obscenity, together with the low wit of some ludicrous apes of humour.

The anchor being at peak, they were called upon deck to loose the sails, and haul home the top-sail sheets, an employment to which Page being very unaccustomed, exposed him to the continual abuse of the consequential gentlemen around him, who called him Land Lubber, Master Jackey, Soldiery Dog,



Dóg, and by other appellations of disdain and contempt.

His friend being busy in the tier, assisting the Quarter-masters in coiling the cables, could neither afford him instruction nor comfort, so that he was now abandoned to grief and despair.

At length the anchor being up, and the ship on her way, under an easy sail and pleasant gale, our hapless Orphan was at leisure to contemplate on the wretchedness of his situation, and give vent to his sorrow in strains dictated by the most poignant and heart-piercing woes. While he was ruminating with himself, the Boatswain piped to breakfast, and his friend Manly (his messmates being employed upon deck, and in other parts of the vessel) took him into his birth, and endeavoured, by many very persuasive arguments, to dispose him to bear his misfortunes with some degree of serenity, as he had now no prospect of escaping, but might even yet find a friend,

friend, who should prove at once his benefactor and deliverer.

But all that his friend could urge imparted not a dawn of hope to his despairing mind, which distracted by past review and future prospect, seemed to be rent by the most wild and agitating passions, when he broke out into strange flights, and incoherent exclamations to this effect :

‘ Cruel fate, wherefore am I thus ac-  
 ‘ cursed ! seduced by a villain, torn from  
 ‘ my friends, sold to slavery, abandoned to  
 ‘ insult, banished my country, deprived  
 ‘ of all the comforts, and consigned to  
 ‘ all the miseries of human life ? I exist  
 ‘ but to be wretched, and every revolv-  
 ‘ ing moment is an addition to my pu-  
 ‘ nishment. May the cruel hour in  
 ‘ which I was betrayed be expunged  
 ‘ the diary of time, and cursed be the  
 ‘ traitor, to whose arts I fell an innocent,  
 ‘ unsuspecting victim. O generous, af-  
 ‘ fectionate relatives, what must be your  
 ‘ feeling !

'feeling! how inconceivably exquisite  
 'your pain, how inexpressibly agonizing  
 'your torture, through such an uncer-  
 'tain privation of the very object on  
 'whom you had founded your future  
 'views of happiness? And you, tender-  
 'est of virgins, most lovely and most  
 'loved of sisters, how shall I think of  
 'the griefs that rend thy distracted bo-  
 'som, and of the fountains of tears that  
 'flow down thy rose-hued cheeks, with-  
 'out acting the same part, and out-  
 'vying thee in grief, in pain, in des-  
 'peration? I detest all things around  
 'me, I hate my very being, am weary  
 'of life, and yet tremble to rush into  
 'the presence of an offended deity, by  
 'depriving myself of that, which I could  
 'not confer. I yet behold suicide in  
 'all its dreadful colours, and shudder  
 'at the thought of counteracting the will  
 'of the Most High. Be still then  
 'my beating heart, and indulge me  
 'but to hope for a reversion of my  
 'fate.'

Thus

Thus was the mind of the wretched Page agitated, on leaving his native soil, and proceeding on a long voyage, to distant climes, where his only expectation was to end his life by the pressure of honour, misery and despair.



### C H A P. III.

The Orphan is exposed to various hardships in the Channel—supported by the counsel and assistance of his friend Manly, who cruelly suffers on his account, from the behaviour of Mr. Testy, Chief Mate.—Reflections upon divers characters on board.

**W**HEN all hands were again summoned upon deck by the Boatswain's pipe, the chief and second Mates proceeded to settle their respective watches, and it happily fell to Page's lot to be in the starboard, which  
was

was under the command of the second Mate, who, from his disposition and character, we shall call by the name of Hearty. But his friend Manly, at the instigation of Mr. Tefty, was in the other, so that Page was deprived of those pleasing hopes, he might have entertained from being fixed as a watch-mate with him, who had already so often revived his drooping spirits, and administered comfort to him, when on the very brink of despair.

When the weather would permit, Page, together with the rest that were consigned to the same wretched fortune, was mustered, in order to be trained to the manual exercise, and on those occasions exposed to the general ridicule of the ship's crew, who were highly entertained with the awkwardness of the lubbers, as they termed them, and not a little delighted with the cruel treatment they received from their brutal officer. Page however was more tractable to martial

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discipline,



discipline, than the major part of them, and had the mortification on that account, to hear the officers frequently say, that he promised fair to make a useful fellow, as he began to handle Brown Bess with tolerable dexterity. But the difficulties to which he was exposed, as considered in a military capacity, were by no means comparable with those he underwent in the course of his watching upon deck.

On these occasions he not only suffered from strels of weather, but was sometimes most terribly affrighted by being obliged to go aloft; a command he never heard without trembling at every joint, not only as he was unaccustomed to such exercise, but as he had long been subject to a giddiness in the head.

No excuse that he could urge, was sufficient to exempt him from the dreadful obligation; on the contrary, when he declared the defect under which he had long laboured, it was

was construed into excuse and evasion, and rendered the officers more peremptory in insisting upon his compliance. These considerations, added to the melancholy turn of his mind, and together with his almost momentary reflections upon his absence from his friends, and their poignant grief on account of his being thus torn from them by some cruel, though unknown mishap, contributed to raise such sensations of inward pain in his breast, as can hardly be conceived, so that he may truly be said, never to have enjoyed the smallest interval of tranquillity, from the day in which he lost sight of his native land. Beside the grief which incessantly harassed his mind, he suffered in a bodily sense, from having no other nutriment than that of salt meat, stale peas, and biscuit, which, together with an occasional dish of stock-fish, composed the whole of his fare.

This kind of food may agree extremely well with such as have been ac-

customed to it, or those that have been in a starving condition, before they entered upon it; but it must have been very insipid, if not disgusting to our Orphan, who from his infancy had sat at a plentiful table, and enjoyed the blessings of providence, in a very ample manner.

While Page was ruminating on these circumstances, the wind and sea were risen to so great a pitch, that a storm ensued and continued with the utmost violence for the space of twenty-four hours. During this time, there were at intervals such gusts of wind as exceed all description; the Sea too surpassed all that had been seen before by any on board, insomuch, that words can convey but a faint image of this picture. The lofty billows did not take a long scope in breaking and discharging their rage, but having risen to their greatest height, disgorged their watry load upon the ship at once.

This shock carried the men from the helm, together with the larboard gallery,  
and

and stove the yawl (a small boat) that was lashed upon the quarter. Much other damage was done, and the stoutest on board were alarmed at their melancholy situation.

It is not easy to conceive the state of the unfortunate Page in this time of danger and difficulty; as he was standing to windward upon the quarter deck, (being one of the after-guard), they shipped a sea, which carried him down the hatchway, as it were in a whirlwind, and for a time deprived him of his senses. When he recovered himself, he found that he had bruised one of his legs against the ladder, and while he sat pensive upon a chest, holding by a stanchion, and lamenting his miserable fate, one of the petty officers inhumanly ordered him to get forward, with a contemptuous reprimand for daring to sit down in that respectable part of the vessel. The poor fellow limped away as fast as he could, but received a terrible fall before he

he arrived at his birth, where he found his hammock full of water, and every thing in a most dismal plight. To add to this concern, he had long been deprived of an interview with his friend Manly, from whom he hoped to receive direction and counsel in the present situation of things, and to whom it would have been some mitigation of his grief, to have unbosomed himself. The storm arose about six in the evening, and raged with unremitting fury till the same hour of the following, when it began to abate, and part of the crew were permitted to go to rest; but alas! though fatigued with the labour and watching of the foregoing night, they found all their bedding below wet, for the ship had laboured so much, that the water had forced itself in almost at every seam. As Page's watch was ordered below, Manly took an opportunity of going down when all was quiet, to enquire concerning the state of his unfortunate friend,



friend, and finding his hammock and bedding wringing wet, lent him a warm Grego, or long jacket lined with fur, and advised him to wrap himself up in that, and take his repose upon a chest. Accordingly at the counsel of his generous friend, he laid himself down, and considering the force of grief that had so lately disturbed his imagination, had a very refreshing sleep, though when the watch was called at midnight, he found his bones very sore. At six in the morning, all hands were called to repair the damages sustained by the storm, a work which employed all that day; on the noon of which, they found themselves pretty clear of the Channel, and having run for three successive days under a pleasant five or six knot (or mile) gale, they were overtaken with a great sea, which caused the ship to pitch very much, and obliged them to bring to, ten or twelve hours, being now in the Bay of Biscay, which rendered it very uncomfortable; however

ever at length the wind came about in moderate gales, and enabled them to proceed on their intended course.

In about twelve or fourteen days they caught the N. E. trade-wind, which with fair weather and smooth water, caused them to carry all the sail they could set, in order to keep up with the convoy, that seemed very desirous of expediting their voyage, in order to proceed to their destined station.

If there is any delight in a sea-faring life, or any satisfaction in sailing, it must be in these periodical trade-winds, being much the most agreeable part of the voyage. But this period, though it afforded pleasure to those whose common avocation was to plough the watry main, and those especially, who had almost every convenience, they can procure on shore, served but to enhance the misery of wretched Page on divers considerations. As his mind was not filled with dire apprehensions of imminent danger,

danger, it was at leisure to contemplate on his absence from his dear friends and affectionate relations, and as the fair weather afforded them daily opportunities of mustering the soldiers, or rather those intended as such, to learn their exercise; the indignities offered him on these occasions pierced his very soul, and gave him more sensible pain than any of the bodily hardships to which he was exposed.

This pleasant weather however afforded frequent opportunities to the two friends of enjoying mutual converse, as well as caused a fresh rupture between poor Manly and the malicious Testy, at the instigation of Shackles, the third Mate, who had conceived an implacable aversion to the Midshipman, because he evinced a greatness of soul, to which he himself was an utter stranger. This sordid, envious fellow, in the course of his watch had often observed Page upon deck discoursing  
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with Manly, and knowing the disgrace under which the latter had laboured, before they failed, on the same account, took care to inform Mr. Testy of the renewal of their converse. The upstart Mate would frequently cast a stern glance at Manly, but the other affected to take no manner of notice of it, till Testy never failed, if he found them engaged in converse, to call him away, upon some very frivolous pretence, though nothing was necessary to be done at that critical juncture.

Manly never hesitated to comply with the command of his officer, wisely avoiding to give him any just cause for offence, nevertheless he could not forbear indicating by his countenance, a generous contempt for his mean behaviour in rendering a petty post subservient to the gratification of a despicable pride, and the oppression of a person of real virtue and intrinsic merit. The worthless Shacklefigure likewise contributed his  
part

part in the scene of barbarity, for having singled out the unfortunate Page, he never failed to treat him with abuse, as well as severity, whenever he came within his province of command. As he was one of Testy's creatures, he would frequently listen to the discourse that passed between the two friends, and having once heard Manly speak contemptibly of any man that could prostitute the power occasionally vested in him, to treat his fellow creatures with inhumanity, nay absolute barbarity; he immediately ran to Testy with the news, who construed it into mutiny and declared that he should be punished accordingly.

The chief Mate had great influence over the Captain, who, though a noisy, rattling man, meant very little good or harm, and was entirely guided by those, who by humouring his foibles, could gain the ascendancy over him. Testy, who was as artful as malicious, had



had discovered the method of working upon Captain Bluster, and now prevailed on him to order the articles of war, to be pasted on the bulk-head of the cabbin, assuring him that he would undertake to prove to the ship's company, the legality of the proceeding, and keep them in the strictest awe, and most implicit obedience to their officers by those means.

The Mate having thus proceeded in an unjustifiable, as well as artful, manner, thought himself able to wreak his vengeance on the generous Manly, and therefore took an opportunity to inform him of the report he had received from Mr. Shacklefigure, and the necessity of his being punished according to the award of those articles. Manly replied, that he was ignorant of his having given any offence, as well as of the right of merchant ships to proceed according to articles of war, which belonged to the Royal Navy alone; declaring at the  
same

same time, that he was ready, when called upon, to assert his innocence. The affair lay dormant for some time, till the third Mate, having over-heard Manly discoursing on the subject with his friend, took an opportunity of reviving the enmity of Mr. Testy.

In the course of their conversation one evening during the dog-watch, from six to eight, Manly gave it as his opinion, that the commander of a Merchantman had no manner of right to bring the most menial of the crew to a Court-martial, for any misbehaviour whatever; nor had the articles of war the most distant reference to persons in the merchant service. He further added, that it appeared to him highly absurd and unreasonable, that the power of life and death should be lodged in the breast of persons, who possibly might neither have capacity to judge concerning the merits of a cause, nor probity sufficient to pronounce an equitable sentence in

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case

case of delinquency; and that it was shocking above all, to see this important power vested in any one man, who for the gratification of his passions, or the interest of his fortune, might often be induced to pervert justice to the oppression of his fellow subject.

This being reported to Testy, who from a wantonness of cruelty in his temper, joined to an extreme degree of pride and vanity, sought occasion to gratify the prevalence of an odious disposition, and therefore determined to avail himself of it in order to be revenged upon the innocent Midshipman.

As a prelude to his cruel purpose, he ordered the fifth Mate, by the Captain's direction, to read the articles aloud to the ship's company, declaring at the same time, that if any one was proved guilty of transgressing the least point contained in them, he should most certainly be flogged with the utmost severity.

Having thus paved the way for the accomplishment of his malicious design,  
he

he ordered the third Mate, together with a Midshipman, who was one of his messmates, to take Manly as their prisoner, into the gun-room, by the Captain's permission, who on this occasion feign'd sickness and delegated the sovereign command to the tyrannical Testy.

After he had continued prisoner in the heaviest irons for the space of eight and forty hours, he was brought upon deck ; and all hands being called, Testy, in formal manner, represented to the ship's company, that John Manley, Midshipman, upon the oath of Mr. Timothy Shacklefigure third mate, and Philip Fleaskin, Boatswain's mate, had been guilty at different times of uttering mutinous expressions, in contempt of the articles that were statedly read on board, and in danger of the good order and tranquillity of the ship's crew in general ; and that to enforce due obedience to command, as well as deter others from the same illegal practice, it was deem-

ed expedient to inflict punishment upon the delinquent, by causing him to receive twenty stripes upon the back, from the hand of Mr. Benjamin Callous, Boatswain of the ship. Manly being ready to appeal to the ship's company concerning the legality of the proceeding, and his own innocence, had such conduct been justifiable upon any principle of law or equity ; was prevented by a blow on the face from Mr. Testy, who ordered the Boatswain to do his duty. The humane Mr. Callous, who owed the Midshipman a grudge, laid on with all his might, but the gallant sufferer bore his wrongs as became a man, and when he was loosed and discharged in form with a word of advice from the brutal Testy, retired to his birth without much apparent discomposure.

From the preceding part of this narrative the reader will be able to form a judgment of the torture of mind  
that



that poor Page underwent for the sufferings of the innocent, the generous Manly, who with a sympathy that reflected honour upon human nature, had compassionated his hapless fortune, and with a munificence peculiar to great minds, had relieved his indigent circumstances:

During the ridiculous ceremony, and despicable parade of the late cruel and unjust proceeding, his soul was agitated with reflections to the following purport.

‘ Good God! and are there such  
 ‘ miscreants in human form? live there  
 ‘ beings so lost to justice, to reason, to  
 ‘ humanity? I have heard with honest  
 ‘ indignation of the system that Hobbes  
 ‘ lays down in his Leviathan, which in-  
 ‘ timates that mankind naturally prey  
 ‘ on each other; but the conduct of these  
 ‘ maritime savages convinces me, that  
 ‘ human nature may be degraded be-  
 ‘ neath brutality; for what can be more  
 ‘ mean, base, ignoble, cruel and un-  
 ‘ just

' just, than to oppress the innocent  
 ' and virtuous out of meer pride and  
 ' caprice? what more sordid and bru-  
 ' tal than to insult and torture merit,  
 ' where there can be no appeal. Coward  
 ' Testy, to indulge and gratify a resent-  
 ' ment against a character that only  
 ' wants to be known, in order to be  
 ' admired, and lift a hand against the  
 ' man, who scorns to put up with an  
 ' affront, as much as he does to give  
 ' one. Though I am doomed I fear to  
 ' perpetual exile, I cannot but indulge  
 ' a fond hope, that my worthy friend  
 ' will live to retaliate the indignity, and  
 ' bring the villain to public shame, who  
 ' in opposition to the laws of his coun-  
 ' try, the dictates of justice, and the  
 ' precepts of humanity, has insolently  
 ' dared upon the presumption of a paltry  
 ' precedence in station, to give virtue  
 ' scandal, innocence disgrace, and tram-  
 ' ple upon that respect that is ever due  
 ' to intrinsic merit.'

Mr.

Mr. Manly having been lashed with great severity, was obliged to commit himself to the care of Doctor O'Flarty, from whom he received no relief, and therefore determined to have recourse to young Mr. Syringe his mate. Syringe was a young fellow of good education and much practice; but having very little money, and as few friends, a dearth of business on shore had compelled him to incur some debts in town; therefore to avoid the miseries of a goal, he had embraced the first opportunity of shipping himself, in order to elude the vigilance of the shoulder-dabbers.

When this young practitioner came to dress his back, he shook his head and shrugged his shoulders, a behaviour that Manly construed into a declaration, that his wounds had not been properly treated by Doctor O'Flarty. Indeed Syringe had much more merit than his master, and soon evinced his superior skill in the perfect cure of the injured Midshipman,  
who

who thereupon conceiving a friendship for him, related to him the case of the unfortunate Page, and made him the companion of his leisure hours. When opportunity offered, those three would pass their time in general observations and reflections upon men and things, and as the characters of several on board were known to Syringe and Manly, they freely communicated them to each other for their amusement as well as instruction. Accordingly Syringe began with Captain Bluster, and related the following detail.

Bellow Bluster Esq. our worthy commander, is entirely indebted for his promotion to the success of a fortunate and artful uncle, who came out of the West of England, and from the situation of errand boy, arrived in a course of time, through his craft and industry united, to the degree of a merchant, in which capacity he acquired great wealth and much influence, inasmuch that having property  
in

in several ships that traded to the East, he sent his nephew, at the age of fourteen on a voyage as a Guinea-pig, After he had gone through the necessary degrees, and filled the respective offices previously requisite to a command, he procured him a ship, by which means he also has already acquired, in the course of three successful voyages, a competent fortune.

As he was sent to sea very early in life, and his attention wholly engrossed with maritime affairs, he is a stranger to the world; and because through the interest of his uncle he has obtained preferment, vainly attributes that to merit which is the result of chance, and thinks contemptibly of every one in an inferior station. Hence arise that noisy peremptory behaviour so discernable in him, and that consequential swagger, when he ambles the quarter-deck, together with that supercilious brow, which indicates the ideal monarch, and is the general effect of a tyrannical disposition.

With



With all this parade and empty pomp, he has a mean, sordid soul, capable of being moulded to base purposes, and ever liable to the impressions of flattery. Puffed up with a vain opinion of his own intrinsic worth, as well as enslaved by some predominant vices; whoever can extol the former, and humour the latter, is sure of his confidence, favour and affection: as an instance of which I need but cite the recent case of the injured Manly, whose abuse was the result of Testy's influence with him, in consequence of his gratifying his pride and folly. In short, he is one of those despicable mortals, who forgetting that they are men, arrogate a dignity superior to their rank, and because they are endowed with money, think themselves entitled to domineer over all around them, and from the character of gentlemen, degenerate into that of absolute bullies.

Testy likewise, my friends, is a character neither worthy of imitation nor esteem.

This

This man, because he has not succeeded in life according to the summit of his wishes, seems to be at war with mankind in general, to whom he imputes both ignorance and ingratitude, because his fancied merit has not been adequately rewarded. Though he has spent many years in the service, he has no prospect, through want of interest, of attaining to any higher rank than that of chief Mate, in which capacity, together with many others, he is reserved as a guide for young commanders of superior influence. To encrease his moroseness of temper, and capriciousness of humour, he is of a [very amorous disposition, a great Epicure, and fond of indulgence; so that having lately been obliged to leave a fine buxom girl to whom he had been married but three months, and being thereby deprived of the gratification of his prevailing passion, he is in fact a miserable being, and strives to render all around him as wretched as himself. Like all base minds

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This man, because he has not succeeded in life according to the summit of his wishes, seems to be at war with mankind in general, to whom he imputes both ignorance and ingratitude, because his fancied merit has not been adequately rewarded. Though he has spent many years in the service, he has no prospect, through want of interest, of attaining to any higher rank than that of chief Mate, in which capacity, together with many others, he is reserved as a guide for young commanders of superior influence. To encrease his moroseness of temper, and capriciousness of humour, he is of a [very amorous disposition, a great Epicure, and fond of indulgence; so that having lately been obliged to leave a fine buxom girl to whom he had been married but three months, and being thereby deprived of the gratification of his prevailing passion, he is in fact a miserable being, and strives to render all around him as wretched as himself. Like all base minds

minds he is most fervilely obedient to his superiors, and treats all who are subject to his command with arrogance and disdain.

Having finished his description of characters, Manly declared he had heard them with an honest indignation; but in order to divert their attention from so disagreeable a subject to a more grateful theme, began to recount the character of Hearty the second Mate, whom he had known long before his entrance on a sea-faring life. Hearty (said he) descended from a wealthy farmer in the county of Bucks, inherits the honest, rustic simplicity of his father, and from his long experience in maritime affairs, as well as his bluntness of disposition, may be deemed a thorough tar; agreeable to Otway's description of his hero, "He scorns to flatter  
"the blown up fool above him, to crush  
"the wretch beneath him:" Though unacquainted with the formal behaviour



viour of the conceited fop, and starched prig, he is endowed with good sense, and rarely transgresses the rule of good manners, insomuch that upon the whole he is a good companion, a sincere friend, and a worthy man.

Before he had uttered the last word, poor Page broke in upon him, declaring that from his behaviour towards him, he had conceived of him according to that description, observing that he had ever beheld him with concern and always treated him with the utmost lenity.

After these descriptions, Manly concluded the present conference with some general remarks to the following purport.

From the course of my experience, I am fully convinced of the truth of that well known maxim "Virtue is the only nobility," and that all the merit and perfection of mankind consist in their resemblance of the all-perfect deity. When we come therefore to estimate

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characters

characters, the only rule by which we can properly judge, is their conformity to, or deviation from, the eternal laws of truth and justice, which enjoin an universal philanthropy or love to mankind; consequently, he that evinces a disposition to give his fellow creatures pleasure by allaying their pains and anxieties is a truly good man; while the being, who to gratify a sordid temper, can dare to render them miserable, is sunk into a degree of baseness, that deprives him of all right to the title of humanity.

So much for moralizing my friends, till I shall take an opportunity of giving you a sketch of Mr. Timothy Shacklefigure, which I am persuaded will excite both your ridicule and contempt, as that gentleman is as singular in his follies as in his vices.

## C H A P. IV

Divers circumstances peculiarly affect Mr. Page, as they proceed to the Southward.—Reflections up a Shark.—Strange custom on passing the equinoctial line.—The Orphan is greatly afflicted with sickness on account of bad weather off the Cape of Good Hope.—Finds a friend in the person of Mr. Hearty.

**T**HE vacation which the late pleasant weather afforded, from the toils of a sea-faring life, was spent in the necessary repairs of the rigging, and picking oakham, or separating the particles of hempen ropes for caulking the ship and other uses.

It is customary on these occasions to set each man his task, and to punish every one that is found delinquent by depriving him of his stated allowance of liquor; a punishment of the most injurious

injurious nature, not only as it deprives the sufferer of a sensible gratification, but also as it subjects him to the prey of the scurvy, to which spirituous liquor is deemed a very powerful antidote.

Page had his task allotted him, and as from inexperience, the Captain, who superintended this part of the business, to pass away his time, which he was never disposed to employ in reading, and could not endure the very notion of contemplation; frequently found him defective, and consigned him to the fate of the rest. But this loss was always amply compensated by the generous Manly, who shared with his distressed friend all that he possessed, and had long devoted his person and property to his service. His stock indeed was but small, but as he managed it with œconomy, it served every necessary and important purpose, and though not sufficient to administer a supply to the inordinate cravings of luxury, was adequate

quate to the reasonable demands of nature and of health.

Having been favoured with a pleasant gale at N. E. as before observed, for about the space of twenty days, during which they had run a considerable way to the Southward, and had passed the sun in about twelve degrees North latitude, where he shed his beams with the most powerful influence; the Orphan, who had been accustomed to the wholesome air of Northamptonshire, found himself greatly incommoded by the excessive heat of this climate, which would have been intolerable, had not his friend Manly supplied him with a nankeen jacket, and long trowsers, and thereby enabled him to throw off the cloth one, together with the worsted and yarn stockings, with which he had been supplied by his generous benefactors on his compelled embarkation in their service or rather thralldom, as it really proved to this unfortunate youth.

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On the declension of the N. E. trade-winds in about four degrees and half North, they were harrassed with continual calms, (as are generally met with in this part of the world) for about twelve days, when they were taken up by the S. E. trade. During that period it was sometimes calm; but at others it would blow most violently in squalls, or sudden gusts of wind, and rain excessively for hours together, with the loudest peals of thunder, and most terrifying darts of lightning. It is not easy to conceive the alarm with which these concurring circumstances of terror affected the wretched Page, who every night upon his watch dreaded a command to go aloft, which appeared to him in all the horrors that attend the sentence of death. To add to these calamities, he was full of the prickly heat, or small cutaneous eruptions, which excited very disagreeable sensations, and though deemed conducive to the preservation of health

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in those sultry climes, rendered him while under their operation, extreamly uneasy. This S. E. trade poor Page has often mentioned as the most irksome part of his passage to slavery, as they did not advance above twenty or thirty miles a day, and it became dark between the hours of five and six in the evening.

During the frequent calms in this latitude, the officers, who were none of them of a speculative turn of mind, had recourse to various frivolous diversions to kill time; but their chief employment was catching sharks, with which the ship was sometimes furrounded, so that it was conjectured they were too nigh the coast of Guinea. The Orphan could not but behold these devouring monsters with horror, the mention of which to Syringe in one of their conferences, caused some reflections and comparisons to this import.

‘ The numerous appearance of these  
 ‘ fishes of prey, (said the young Doctor)  
 ‘ which tear and mangle all that come  
 ‘ within

' within their reach, imperceptibly as it  
 ' were suggested to my fancy, the simi-  
 ' litude of the shark-aquatic, to the  
 ' shark-terrestrial, or man-eater. By this  
 ' appellation I mean those fordid, tyran-  
 ' nical beings in human form, who prey  
 ' upon their fellow creatures, and devour  
 ' all, over whom either riches or power  
 ' (which is generally consequent on  
 ' wealth) gives them any degree of su-  
 ' periority. Now I think a review of  
 ' the general conduct of mankind will  
 ' sufficiently justify this remark. The  
 ' shark-terrestrial, like the shark-aquatic,  
 ' devours all that chance throws in his  
 ' way; and as the latter avails himself of  
 ' the weakness of his prey, so does the  
 ' former of his poverty, witness the la-  
 ' bour of the industrious poor, which  
 ' scarcely affords them a maintenance,  
 ' but fills the coffers of their griping em-  
 ' ployers. Of sharks-terrestrial there are  
 ' three kinds, though of the aquatic  
 ' there are only two. There is the po-  
 ' litical, the commercial, and the uni-  
 ' versal

'versal shark, but of each in their  
 'order. The political shark preys upon  
 'the whole community, and is more  
 'rapacious and destructive than either of  
 'the other two, because he works as  
 'it were under ground, and frequently  
 'swallows a bait at the expence of a  
 'kingdom. I believe if we have re-  
 'course to the annals of history, we  
 'shall there find some transactions,  
 'which plainly prove, that beings have  
 'existed, who from a sordid view to  
 'self interest could divert the helm of  
 'state from its necessary course, into  
 'the shoals and quicksands of hostile  
 'ambush and pre-concerted destruction,  
 'and thereby in effect devour their  
 'country. I leave it to your memories  
 'to recognize the particular instances;  
 'because I always most cautiously avoid  
 'the approach of these sharks, who are  
 'as malicious as they are rapacious.  
 'As the shark-aquatic has its sucking  
 'fish, and pilot fish, so has the shark  
 'political

' political his dependants, and under-  
 ' suckers, as well as his scouts or guides  
 ' to his prey. The sucking fish most  
 ' aptly represents the former, as it sticks  
 ' so close to the skin of the shark as  
 ' not to part with it, even when taken,  
 ' and annoys that monster of prey in the  
 ' nature of vermin. The dependants  
 ' and undersuckers of the shark-political,  
 ' are such, as by their situation and in-  
 ' fluence can in some measure counter-  
 ' act his designs, and thereby infest him  
 ' by continual obligations to fee their co-  
 ' incidence, or bribe their connivance.  
 ' The human shark has likewise his  
 ' scouts, or guides to his prey, as well  
 ' as the aquatic. These are a number  
 ' of inferior place-men, who hold their  
 ' offices at the will of the capital Cor-  
 ' morant, and therefore to retain their  
 ' paltry interest, are continually seeking  
 ' to gratify his rapacious and tyranni-  
 ' cal disposition, by wheedling persons  
 ' into such words or actions, as may af-  
 ' ford



'ford pretence for retaliation, and there-  
 'by bring grist to his mill as well as  
 'their own: like the pilot fish also,  
 'they are always near the shark, and  
 'when a bait is thrown out for him,  
 'hover about, without daring to nibble  
 'themselves, but their motions, dumb  
 'signs, and leering looks guide him to  
 'it; from whence they may be deemed  
 'pilots, with respect to the human spe-  
 'cies, with as much propriety, as the  
 'other with respect to the aquatic.

'The commercial shark is obnoxious  
 'to the general interest of trade, either  
 'by monopoly, forestalling, or under-  
 'selling. Monopolies, though founded  
 'on charter, and supported by the all-  
 'prevailing influence of gold, are inju-  
 'rious to the public, as they confine the  
 'advantages arising from peculiar bran-  
 'ches of commerce, within a narrow  
 'compass, which if extended, would  
 'render more persons capable of ac-  
 'quiring property, though perhaps they  
 'would

' would prevent individuals from grow-  
 ' ing so immensely rich. These commer-  
 ' cial sharks prey in a most extraordinary  
 ' manner, on all whom necessity renders  
 ' subservient to them, and daily live upon  
 ' the sacrifice of some one or other of  
 ' their fellow creatures. While this spe-  
 ' cies of commercial sharks have in some  
 ' countries north of the equator, the  
 ' most dignified sanction for their rapine,  
 ' and swallow thousands with impunity,  
 ' because exalted patronage venally serves  
 ' to consecrate a crime; the petty class  
 ' have recourse to petty measures, either  
 ' by forestalling or underselling, (which  
 ' tend greatly to the detriment of socie-  
 ' ty,) to gratify their sordid propensity,  
 ' and have sometimes practised their  
 ' despicable arts through the connivance  
 ' of the first order of sharks, for reasons  
 ' too obvious to require particular expla-  
 ' nation.

' As to the last kind of sharks, which  
 ' we distinguish by the denomination of  
 ' universal; they abound in all coun-  
 ' tries

' tries inhabited by the human race ;  
 ' these, like the aquatic sharks, bite at  
 ' almost every bait, and are as easily  
 ' subdued by the iron rod of power ;  
 ' for it is observed by mariners, that  
 ' a cut on the tail with an ax, will soon  
 ' dispatch those tyrants of the watry  
 ' element. In short, they are such as  
 ' are continually watching for the weak-  
 ' ness of others, and having no visible  
 ' means of living are said to exist by  
 ' their wits, or rather their villainy ;  
 ' that is, they endeavour to evade the  
 ' law, while they commit actions under  
 ' various guises, which are more hei-  
 ' nous in a moral and social sense, than  
 ' many, which can only be attoned by  
 ' the forfeiture of life. Of this species there  
 ' are various ranks, from the heroes of  
 ' the turf, to the bullies of Moorfields,  
 ' and they have all this peculiar dispo-  
 ' sition : when they are unsuccessful in  
 ' their search after prey, they will devour  
 ' each other.'

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Though the unfortunate Page approved the remarks of his friend Syringe, they only aggravated his woes by bringing to his imagination a despicable idea of mankind in general, and increasing his apprehension of the cruelties and indignities to which he was reserved.

At length a gale sprung up, and they crossed the equinoctial line, about seven weeks after their departure from the channel. The next day, according to custom, the ship's crew were mustered in order to know how many had crossed it before, that they might pay the forfeiture appointed on this occasion, or undergo a hearty ducking. Upon respective enquiry, it appeared that the number of persons on board who had not crossed the line, amounted to seventy one; five of whom preferring the ducking, the ship was brought to, in order to execute the sentence. This is done by making them fast with a rope round the waist and letting them fall  
into

into the water from main-yard-arm, which is repeated three times to each person, from the height of fifty feet. Though Page, through the generosity of his friend Manly, was exempted from this discipline, yet as it appeared to him of the most rigorous nature, and not unlike an execution, he could not but entertain some fear for those who were destined to undergo it; but his concern was soon removed by observing that the very first laughed the moment he was hoisted up.

After various winds and weathers, they arrived at length to the latitude of 32 degrees South, when a fresh N. Wester coming on, they began to compute how long they should be to the Cape, which being deemed about 40 degrees distant, they kept her between 35 deg. 20 min. and 34 deg. S. running for several days from 150 to 200 miles per day, to the eastward. They were now advanced to the most

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fatiguing



fatiguing part of the voyage, for, as an addition to the wind, they had very high seas, hard squalls, abundance of rain, hail, thunder and lightning, with short days, [sun setting between four and five] and dismal cloudy weather, so that our Orphan was glad to divest himself of the cool garb with which his friend had kindly supplied him, and reassume the woollen dress which had been presented him at his first coming on board.

The most uncomfortable circumstance to poor Page was his being incapable to stand or sit without continually holding by some fixed body, from the ship's constantly rolling almost gunwall to. He frequently had most terrible falls upon deck, and his general consolation was a hearty laugh, or contemptuous appellation; insomuch that he has sometimes wished a sea would wash him overboard, and bury him at once in the bosom of the fathomless deep. When he went to his hammock he was generally kept awake either by the ship's violent

violent agitation, the sea beating in, or something giving way, by which he was obliged to entertain the most melancholy and gloomy apprehensions of present danger; or if that was overcome, of future misery, and a state of slavery that would end only with his life. During this boisterous season, which continued for about twelve days, they had not boiled any salt meat more than twice, so that nothing was served out, but biscuit and Suffolk cheese, a commodity deprived of every nutriment, and calculated meerly to fill up the chasms of the stomach; by which means our Orphan suffered in body as well as in mind, and was worn with grief and want, to a very skeleton.

The Editor has been a little particular on many points relative to the common people, in order to give inexperienced persons a proper idea of these tedious voyages, which can never be formed from any accounts heretofore made public

public, as they have been related by persons in superior stations on board, who having enjoyed those comforts and conveniences of which the rest are deprived, have only exhibited the bright side of the scene, while the numberless hardships of the many are entirely omitted.

As they approached the Cape, the most experienced officers on board were astonished to find the weather much more moderate, with smooth water, insomuch that they carried top gallant sails, which gave them great hopes they should pass this corner of land, so famous for boisterous weather, with safety and expedition. Accordingly in about three days after this extraordinary change, they discovered land from the mast-head, and on nearer approach found it to be Cape Legullas or the Cape of the Needles. They had then a fine fresh gale, and ran, in the space of twenty-four hours, 94 miles, but by that time, the wind and sea were risen to  
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so violent a degree, as to exceed all that happened in the former part of the voyage.

A most shocking scene ensued, for they shipped such seas, that notwithstanding the tarpaulins were nailed upon the gratings, the dead lights put up, and the half ports shut in, the water poured in such quantities, through the smallest apertures, as rendered it a perfect sea between decks, and nothing but an incessant plying of the chain pumps, could have saved them from destruction.

The unfortunate Page, though excessively sick in his hammock, was roused by Fleaskin, the boatswain's mate, to take his turn at the pump, but on his first attempt, fell down breathless under the winch; when some of the people compassionating his case, and knowing the friendship that subsisted between him and Mr. Manly, immediately informed him of the piteous condition of that distressed

distressed youth, who seemed ready to expire with sickness and fatigue.

Manly, persuaded that Mr. Hearty, though much of the tar, possessed a generous soul, determined to try the effect of an application to him, in behalf of a hapless being, whose situation, which was neither the effect of his choice nor desert, had exposed him to woes that can only be conceived by those who feel them; he therefore went upon deck where he was then walking (being officer of the watch) and thus addressed him. ‘ Pardon the intrusion, Sir, of a  
 ‘ person much inferior to you in his situation, and permit me to solicit your  
 ‘ generous concurrence in saving the life  
 ‘ of the wretched Page, who has lately  
 ‘ been treated with incredible brutality  
 ‘ by the savage Fleaskin. I apprehend  
 ‘ that you are not unacquainted with the  
 ‘ circumstances of that unfortunate youth,  
 ‘ which have been recounted throughout the ship, and I am persuaded  
 ‘ you



‘ you have humanity that can redress  
 ‘ the wrong of the injured ; wherefore  
 ‘ be pleased to order that scoundrel to  
 ‘ suspend his discipline, till the doctor  
 ‘ or his mate, shall deem him capable of  
 ‘ the common offices on board.’

Mr. Hearty assured the Midshipman that his request should be immediately complied with, and accordingly, before his face, sent for Fleaskin upon the quarter-deck, and having severely reprimanded him for his cruelty towards a distressed youth, whose case demanded pity rather than rigour, forbade him to strike him more upon any pretence, nor call him upon deck, till he should be able to keep his watch and do the ordinary duties of a landsman. To add generosity to humanity, he ordered his boy to furnish him with all from his own stores, that Mr. Manly should require as necessary for him, nobly declaring, in the hearing of the rest of the Mates, that he scorned to increase the miseries of the wretched, and that poor Page should

should have no cause to set him down in the list of his tormentors; and as bravely adding, that there were more services than one, and he would never purchase interest at the expence of the tortures of his fellow creatures.

Manly, rejoiced at this behaviour of the plain, open-hearted Mate, went down to his friend, put him into his own cot, and as soon as he recovered from the stupor, in which he had laid some time, with tears of joy related to him his own resolution in consequence of his distressed state, and the happy effect of his application to Mr. Hearty, who had given the most demonstrative proofs of his humanity, and generosity, and plainly shewed, that no profession nor custom can warp an honest mind from the performance of just and benevolent actions. Having administered to him what was presented by Syringe, he left him in a gentle dose, and proceeded to the duties of his station.

## C H A P. V.

The Orphan recovers and pays his grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Hearty.—Is exposed to the insults of Mr. Shacklefigure.—Sketch of the character of that genius.—Process of the voyage, with divers adventures on board till their arrival at Bombay.

THE cessation of the storm and agreeable succession of fair weather, added to the care of Mr. Syringe, and his friend Manly, contributed in a short time to the recovery of our Orphan, who embraced the first opportunity of returning his grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Hearty, for delivering him from the hands of the merciless Fleaskin, and so generously administering to his comfort and relief. Hearty, with his peculiar openness of temper, assured him, that he was welcome to what assistance

sistance he could give him, during his continuance in the ship; that he would endeavour to render his passage as easy to him as possible, but that he durst not interpose in his behalf on their arrival at Bombay, to which place they were bound. This declaration soothed the unfortunate youth on the one hand, and 'distracted him on the other; for while he reflected with joy on the good will of some few well disposed persons towards him, he considered with grief inexpressible, their want of power and influence, to succeed in their sincere desires of procuring his release from slavery and bondage.

But as his intervals of ease were seldom of long continuance, being again exposed to the insults of tyrant officers, he had fresh cause for the bitterest reflections and most pungent sorrow. Shacklefigure, who was a creature of Testy, had long sought an opportunity of gratifying that upstart Mate's resentment, in the punishment of the

generous

generous Manly and his disconsolate friend, now embraced an occasion, as his illness was over, and he became once more under the discipline of the Boatswain.

Previous to this part of our narrative, it may not be unnecessary nor unenterprising to relate the character of Shacklefigure as communicated to the Editor by the unhappy sufferer.

This worthless being could boast with justice no one recommendatory qualification, and yet assumed a consequence that could be pardonable alone in the most worthy member of society. He was destitute of learning, breeding, or even knowledge in his profession, being, according to the vulgar phrase on ship-board, neither sailor nor soldier; yet arrogated the merit of the best officer on board, and exceeded his commander in pride and presumption. Being emaciated by a long devotion to Bacchus and Venus, his shattered frame would

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never



never admit of his doing his duty in foul weather, when he always kept his cabbin, so that he might be deemed an useless lump on board ; notwithstanding which, when he came upon deck in a serene season for the benefit of the air, he would behave in a most turbulent, haughty manner, and proclaim to the whole ship's company the revival of the despicable Shacklesfigure.

As he was divested of even the dawning of merit himself, he never failed to insult and maltreat it in others ; so that every worthy person inferior to him in station, was the certain butt of his insolence, and constant subject of his abuse.

In short, he may be deemed a mass of vice without a particle of virtue ; a compound of follies, without an ingredient of reason ; an abject being destitute of all the sublimer properties of human nature.

This contemptible fellow, without the least cause, had long conceived an implacable

cable aversion to Manly, and therefore took an occasion to gratify his spleen against him by punishing the unfortunate Page, to whom he knew the Midshipman was most inviolably attached.

As the third Mate's business is to manage the affairs of the hold; after the late storm, Shacklefigure went down with two Midshipmen, (one of whom was Manly) several hands, and among the rest poor Page, though according to the law of custom he was exempt from any offices of that kind. Here, notwithstanding his late sickness, he put him to drudgery, with which he was wholly unacquainted, and placed him in a dangerous situation, in order to add the effect of fear to the fatigue of labour.

Nor did he fail of his design, for Page, affected by the excessive toil of assisting in moving butts, chests, and divers things of burthen, as well as the vile abuse he momentarily received from

the inhuman Shacklefigure, suffered such complicated grief as exceeds conception, and underwent torture that can only be felt, but not expressed. Nor did his malice rest here, for Mr. Hearty being taken ill, and the Captain too indolent to supply his place, Shacklefigure kept the watch, and knowing the tremour that would immediately seize poor Page on being commanded to go aloft, took an opportunity of sending him up one evening to reef the main-top sail, and gave a hint to one of the seamen to drive him out to the very yard-arm. He ascended the shrouds trembling every joint, fearful at every step of missing his hold, and thereby of being plunged into the deep, or receiving some irreparable injury by falling within-board. To add to this shock, he was mortified by the taunts of the mate and the mockery of the men, who never fail on these occasions to display their salt water humour, and that cruelty of disposition

disposition they are too apt to imbibe by frequenting the regions of Neptune. However, poor Page having undergone the dreadful apprehension of the most imminent danger, made shift to get down with whole bones, and had an opportunity of indulging his thoughts, which suggested to his imagination some reflections to this purport.

‘ I had long imbibed an opinion of the  
 ‘ superiority of the term Christian, in  
 ‘ distinction from any other appellation  
 ‘ that could be given to man, and  
 ‘ conceived that it intimated a refinement of thought and delicacy of behaviour peculiar to those who had assumed that title: but alas! I have  
 ‘ erred from the truth, and find, by woful experience, that many under that  
 ‘ guise are capable of actions that derogate from human nature, and are  
 ‘ detestable in the eye of the more civilized Heathen. Can any thing be  
 ‘ more brutal than to delight in giving  
 ‘ exquisite

' exquisite pain to an innocent fellow  
 ' creature, or more tyrannical than to  
 ' pervert a temporary power, in adding  
 ' to the distress of the wretched? but  
 ' such I find is the depravity of some  
 ' men, that they are actuated by every  
 ' principle that is repugnant to the  
 ' Christian name, by which they affect  
 ' to be called, and evince those prin-  
 ' ciples themselves, which they affect to  
 ' despise in others.'

It was now judged from observation  
 that they approached the land; they  
 therefore in the evening laid her to,  
 with her head to the S. W. imagining  
 themselves but thirteen leagues from  
 Madagascar. At eight the following  
 morning, they saw the land, or rather  
 the trees upon it, for it was so very low,  
 that they could not discern it till some  
 time after. They were persuaded on  
 first making this land, that it was Ma-  
 dagascar, but finding as they approach-  
 ed that it did not rise farther a-head,  
 and



and there being no deep bays about that part of the island, they began to mistrust it was the Bassas de India, in which they were confirmed by their observation at noon.

As there is a very great surff almost round this place, and many breakers off it, so as to render it extremely dangerous for a ship to fall in with during the night, they rejoiced that they had cautiously laid her to, with her head off shore. But there was one circumstance gave them great concern, which was their bearing away from it immediately; for discovering a smoke, and considering it as a signal made to them by some people in distress; who had the misfortune to be wrecked on it, as was the case of ship a few years before; they determined to avoid the like danger, and therefore steered for two days N. E. by E. and had moderate S. W. winds and very fine weather, till they saw the island of Joanna, and made preparations for going into port. Accordingly in two days

days more they anchored in the Bay, and were saluted by a messenger, who was sent off to welcome them, and inform them that the king would soon wait upon their captain.

When the ship was moored, and there was leisure to indulge reflection, Manly and his two friends, Syringe and Page, joined in conversation concerning the preceeding part of the voyage, and their arrival upon a spot, to them wholly unknown, which might therefore afford matter of much speculation, when they came to observe the genius and customs of its inhabitants. But the joy which the officers and passengers discovered on the prospect of going on shore, and partaking the refreshing sweets of their mother earth, after having been long tossed on the briny billows of the tempestuous deep, added to the gloom that overspread the mind of the wretched Page, who was to remain on board as a prisoner, and slave, till their arrival at Bombay, where he was to be forced

forced into the most disagreeable of services, and abandoned to every distress both of body and mind.

Soon after the departure of the messenger, numbers of black people came on board with divers kinds of fruit, which they exchanged for knives, tobacco, and rags of any kind, expressing a peculiar regard for the latter commodity, which they could only obtain in the way of barter with European adventurers.

According to promise the king came on board with his retinue, making a most hideous noise with instruments called tom-toms, a kind of drums, which according to the ancient custom of the East, are moved by pulsation of the hands.

After the dinner, which was served up in a very sumptuous manner, his majesty, according to the Mahometan custom, arose from table, bowed his head to the deck several times, and muttered something to himself for five or six minutes,

nutes. But Manly, observing this parade of mock-majesty, could not refrain from observing the general pride of mankind, who are universally attached to outside appearance, and place devotion as well as benevolence, in ostentation, form and ceremony. Notwithstanding all their affected grandeur, they were in reality both poor and mean, and could condescend to beg even a pewter-dish or plate, a disposition that concurred with many of our European practices, to evince, that pride and meanness are inseparable concomitants, and that avarice is founded on the most disingenuous principles.

During their stay in this place, there was one constant fair on board, with poultry, goats, monkeys, greens, fish and fruit, which, as before observed, were bartered for various trifles, some of their leading men deciding the bargains.

After they had loaded the vessel in a manner with the produce of this place,  
and

and completed their quantity of wood and water, they departed, highly satisfied with the profusion that abounds of delicious fruits and provisions, which are produced without the least industry of the inhabitants. Having pleasant gales and fair weather, they passed the line in about fourteen days, when near twenty of the crew fell sick of violent fevers. It was observed, that no ship ever left Joanna without suffering in this manner a little time after, and some so severely, that it caused a mistrust the inhabitants played some tricks; but this inference was not fairly drawn, as it appeared from the declaration of several persons on board, who had made frequent voyages to these parts; that it proceeded from their sudden change of diet, from salt provision to fresh, which enriching the blood, produced distempers, and this opinion was abundantly confirmed by there being not one who belonged to the Captain's



tain's table, that complained in the least.

As they approached their destined port of Bombay, the person vested with the superintendence of the soldiers, was remarkably assiduous in training his men to the manual exercise, from the hope of preferment, when they should enter upon an honourable service. Page, at the advice of his friends Manly and Syringe, affected an extraordinary awkwardness, hoping thereby to avoid the fate of a soldier, and be sent back to England as untractable: but this only served to aggravate his punishment, and expose him to the most rigorous treatment from the serjeant, who informed him that he perfectly understood his design, that all his attempts were vain, and that therefore he had better reconcile himself to his fate, as the only means to secure the respect of his officers, and his own personal happiness. To the counsel of  
this

this despicable fellow, he turned a deaf ear, and kept on in the round of duty, sometimes passing off without a reprimand, and at others, suffering the vilest abuse and most severe strokes from his cane.

This part of his misfortunes was by far the most poignant to the elevated mind of our afflicted Orphan, who frequently declared to his friend Manly, that he could sustain toil and hunger, or indeed an absolute destitution of the comforts of life, from the meer persuasion of their being irremedial; but that his subjection to verbal abuse and corporal punishment was intolerable, and would often force him to exclaim in this frantic manner.

‘Cruel fate, to what am I reserved?  
 ‘I am already damned with evils interior  
 ‘and exterior. Racked with all the horrors of despair; emaciated by the gnawing anguish of my tortured soul, to which is often presented the detested  
 K image

' image of the villain that betrayed  
 ' and sold me to slavery. I see him fix  
 ' his eye upon me in the field, behold  
 ' his execrable heart under the guise of  
 ' an alluring visage, and penetrate into  
 ' all his hellish designs. Disconsolate  
 ' virgin, orphan sister, I hear thy bitter  
 ' lamentations for thy lost brother; but  
 ' alas! fancy cannot paint to thy mind  
 ' the state of his wretchedness; it is su-  
 ' perlative beyond comparison, poignant  
 ' beyond conception, and desperate  
 ' beyond idea. Hardened mortals, that  
 ' can solace yourselves in your riches,  
 ' and riot in luxury, while you coun-  
 ' tenance the greatest pests to society,  
 ' thieves in the most heightened sense,  
 ' scoundrels that rob the innocent of  
 ' their liberty, and sell the blood of the  
 ' guiltless. O could I possibly represent  
 ' to one compassionate patriot of influ-  
 ' ence the state of my case, thus exiled  
 ' from my country and my friends, de-  
 ' prived of my hereditary right, and  
 ' cursed

' cursed with all the evils that can  
 ' befall the wretched, surely I should  
 ' not only obtain deliverance, but rouse  
 ' the legislature to take the most effect-  
 ' ual methods, in order to prevent the  
 ' growth of so crying an evil in the midst  
 ' of them. What! suffer children to  
 ' be torn from the arms of parents,  
 ' in a country, that boasts her free-  
 ' dom in preference to all others; con-  
 ' nive at complicated theft and mur-  
 ' der; permit the transportation of free-  
 ' born Englishmen, and acquiesce with  
 ' the ravages of power over the liberties,  
 ' the lives of fellow creatures, fellow  
 ' subjects; O shame, where is thy  
 ' blush!

Though Manly checked these inordi-  
 nate sallies in the unfortunate Page, he  
 could not but admit the truth of them  
 in general, and nobly despise those, who  
 owe their greatness to the injuries of  
 others, as well as wish most ardently  
 for the speedy suppression of the in-  
 famous

famous practice, against which his hapless friend so justly inveighed.

Their gale continuing beyond all expectation, they crowded sail in order to get into port before the change of the moon, as they would otherwise be compelled to bring to off the coast, it being often attended with bad weather, on which account European captains avoid the approach of land at that time.

So expeditious was their passage, that they were but sixteen days, sailing from the island of Joanna to the Reef, near the harbour of Bombay, where they arrived in the middle of August, anchored in about eight fathom water, and made a signal for the master-attendant to come off and pilot them in. On his arrival he was accosted by the officers and some of the passengers, concerning the welfare of their friends, while he was as sollicitous about the state of affairs in England.

As

As night came on he did not care to weigh anchor, which obliged them to remain there till eleven next day, when they stood in for the road, and at two in the afternoon anchored, to their great joy, saluting the fort, according to the ceremony usual on these occasions.

But as in former instances, every circumstance that afforded delight and pleasure to others, was a fresh source of grief to the disconsolate Orphan; so in the present, their arrival at this port was to him the prelude of his future misery, and his entrance upon slavery.

In a few days, orders were sent on board to conduct the soldiers on shore, so that the preceding night was the only space that Page could enjoy the company and conversation of his two friends. Accordingly he received an invitation from Syringe to sup with him in his birth, together with Manly, his approved friend and counsellor. At the time



time appointed, Page attended, and the worthy Surgeon and Midshipman exerted their utmost endeavours to sooth the anguish of that unfortunate youth. After they had passed mutual assurances, of bearing each other upon their minds, during the various scenes through which they might pass in the future course of their lives; they addressed their hapless friendly by turn: Syringe thus beginning.

‘ I am not insensible, generous though  
 ‘ unfortunate youth, that it is more  
 ‘ easy to give advice to persons under  
 ‘ misfortunes, than to bear them; yet  
 ‘ I am conscious that I have borne your  
 ‘ griefs as far as sympathy can affect  
 ‘ such circumstances, and would not utter  
 ‘ an expression, or the most distant  
 ‘ hint which I thought would give you  
 ‘ pain. Nor would I flatter you with  
 ‘ delusive hopes and vain expectations,  
 ‘ as such would only be productive of  
 ‘ disappointment, and add to your load  
 ‘ of troubles. Yet I can by no means  
 ‘ admit of your giving way to despair,  
 ‘ or

' or indulging that melancholy, that has  
 ' sat upon your brow during the voyage.  
 ' You labour indeed at present, under  
 ' a deprivation of all that can give you  
 ' pleasure and delight, and doubtless  
 ' have a very gloomy prospect before  
 ' you; but still your case may be noticed  
 ' by some worthy person, who has both  
 ' power and inclination to relieve you,  
 ' and may rescue you from misery, at  
 ' a time when it shall be most pun-  
 ' gent. Your woes may strike some  
 ' humane breast, that compassionating  
 ' your fate, may interpose in your behalf,  
 ' and obtain for you the liberties and pri-  
 ' vileges of a subject of Great Britain.  
 ' It shall be my endeavour to make  
 ' known the state of your affairs to some  
 ' person of consequence, as soon as it  
 ' can be done consistently with my own  
 ' security, for I learn they are very ar-  
 ' bitrary here, and that there is no ap-  
 ' peal from their council. Let me there-  
 ' fore conjure you, by all the ties of  
 ' friendship,

' friendship, to bear up under the bur-  
 ' then of your fate, nor sink till you  
 ' are destitute of all hope of relief. I  
 ' will find you out, and administer to  
 ' your comfort whatever is within the  
 ' compass of my power and ability.'

Page acknowledged the kindness of  
 his friend Syringe, but declared his im-  
 patience to hear the sentiments of Man-  
 ly, to whose judgment he paid a greater  
 deference: the Midshipman therefore  
 addressed him.

' In this critical situation of affairs,  
 ' my dear and valued friend, I am at  
 ' a loss in what manner to administer,  
 ' either comfort or advice. Your case  
 ' is so peculiar in its nature, and so re-  
 ' mote from any view of relief, that it  
 ' is a most difficult task to alleviate  
 ' your misfortunes, or direct your future  
 ' conduct. I am convinced you possess  
 ' an innate goodness of heart, and the  
 ' most refined sentiments of honour;  
 ' hence I cannot but be shocked at the  
 ' many

' many indignities you have suffered from  
 ' men, who are a disgrace to human na-  
 ' ture, as well as tremble to think of  
 ' the usage you will receive from ty-  
 ' rants on shore. I mention this in  
 ' order that you may arm yourself against  
 ' them, by calling in the aids of reason,  
 ' philosophy, and conscious virtue, which  
 ' can enable you to sustain the ills of  
 ' fortune, and bear with patience the  
 ' taunts of the unworthy. It is not im-  
 ' possible indeed but that Syringe's ob-  
 ' servation may prove true, but it is very  
 ' improbable, as according to every ac-  
 ' count that I have heard concerning  
 ' these Eastern settlements, such a re-  
 ' gard is paid to recommendation, rank,  
 ' and precedence; that every qualifica-  
 ' tion passes unnoticed, if a man unhap-  
 ' pily wants those essential requisites.  
 ' Nevertheless, amidst all your troubles,  
 ' my advice is, that conscious of your  
 ' innocence, and supported by a recti-  
 ' tude of conduct, you endeavour to  
 ' prevent

' prevent the effect which the contin-  
 ' gencies of human life might other-  
 ' wise have upon your mind, and re-  
 ' member, that virtue will have its re-  
 ' ward, though it appears to us very dis-  
 ' tant and extremely remote.'

These remarks of Manly had much weight with poor Page, who formed a resolution to bear his troubles with fortitude, and leave the result to an overruling providence, which orders all things for the best, and will finally reward intrinsic merit, so as to compensate for all the evils that can befall mankind in a state of frailty and vicissitude.

Some hours having elapsed with this conference, the three friends separated, and retired to their respective births; but the Orphan closed not his eyes during the whole night, his mind being bent on the reflection of what fate had reserved as his cruel lot. Next morning he was escorted with the rest of his fellow sufferers, on shore, by the serjeant

serjeant who had presided over them throughout the voyage, and other myrmidons appointed to that brutal office.



## C H A P. VI.

Various reflections of the Orphan on his landing.—Joining a military corps, and other particular occurrences.—He has an interview with his friends Manly and Syringe.

**T**HE unfortunate wretches having landed, were conducted to the garrison, and there lodged, till they should be destined to their several departments.

This circumstance could not but peculiarly affect the mind of our Orphan, who was now deprived of the company and conversation of his two friends on board,



board, and treated with every instance of indignity, that can injure a noble and generous mind.

They had not long arrived, before several officers came to view their new acquisitions from England, and declare their respective judgments on the size, and looks of the different recruits. Page was mustered among the rest, and not a little mortified to hear himself pronounced a promising young fellow, if he would divest himself of that sullen look, and hold up his head, as become a soldier.

Being particularly interrogated by a gentleman present, whom from his manner, he apprehended to be possessed with more humanity than the rest, he was ready to mention the cause of his present situation; but before he had well opened his case, was informed, that no attention was ever paid there to the strange stories which their recruits had always ready to relate, as they were well

well assured that they had voluntarily entered into the service, notwithstanding the pretences they might alledge, in order to exempt themselves from an obligation they had justly incurred. He farther added, that his own ease and peace entirely depended on an implicit compliance with orders, and the punctual performance of his duty, in which, if he persisted, he might acquire the esteem of his officers, and obtain preferment.

On the departure of these persons, the hapless Page was agitated by the most tumultuous passions: distracted with a view of an abject life he was to lead, he sometimes resolved to be his own executioner: trembling at the thought of suicide, at other times his whole frame was discomposed by an universal shudder; while at others, a stupor engrossed his faculties, and he stood motionless as a statue. But of all the considerations that presented themselves to his troubled mind, none affected him

so sensibly, as the want of a single person, to whom he could communicate his woes, and by unbosoming himself, procure a temporary relief to his depressed spirits. Thus remote from his native land, he could appeal to none in confirmation of his rank in life, nor would any person in a superior station, deign to ask him a single question relative to his circumstances and situation; for superiors in this part of the world, treat their inferiors with the most supercilious contempt, and will by no means lessen their consequence in attending to the fate of the wretched. Having revolved in his thoughts a variety of subjects, he at length had recourse to his accustomed method of venting his grief, and broke out into some vague remarks to this effect.

‘ My situation increases in misery with  
 ‘ its continuance. I thought myself dis-  
 ‘ console on ship board, when exposed  
 ‘ to the insults of tyrant officers and  
 ‘ brutal

' brutal men: but alas! that state was  
 ' a heaven to the present; if I under-  
 ' went anxiety, I had friends who kind-  
 ' ly interposed their good offices, and  
 ' thereby mitigated my troubles; but  
 ' here I am deprived of every allay, and  
 ' sentenced to bear a load of grief, with-  
 ' out any opportunity of disincumbering  
 ' myself of the least weight. In vain  
 ' I summon reason and patience to my  
 ' aid; the former cannot prevent the  
 ' feelings of nature, nor the latter prove  
 ' remedial in a desperate case. O dire  
 ' effect of an ignorant compliance with  
 ' the accursed scheme of a mercenary  
 ' villain, who maintains a detestable  
 ' existence, at the expence of all that is  
 ' dear to many of his fellow creatures!  
 ' If I ever am blessed with a moment's  
 ' respite from the most agonizing tor-  
 ' ture of soul, it is only during an in-  
 ' terval of hope, that my fond relations  
 ' entertain not adequate ideas of my  
 ' wretchedness, which, if I only sup-  
 ' posed

‘ posed they did, would plunge me into  
 ‘ the very abyfs of despair.’

While Page gave way to this gloomy mood, he was observed by one of the centinels, with much concern and sympathy, which induced the poor soldier to endeavour to cheer his desponding mind, by encouraging him to hope for relief, and admonishing him to follow his example, in a quiet submission to his adverse fate. Our Orphan was pleased with the humanity of the stranger, and acknowledged the kindness of his address; but informed him, that for very important reasons he could not follow his advice. This concise reply piqued the ignorant fellow, who therefore plainly told him, that he doubted not but there were many better men than himself in the same case, and that they were obliged to submit to command, and the stated fare of the country without repining.

This seeming taunt roused the spirit of the unfortunate youth, who in few  
 words

words thus bespoke the centinel: 'In-  
 'sult me not under calamity, friend,  
 'and as you cannot ease, add not to  
 'my griefs, which are only known to  
 'myself.'

This blunt manner prevented any further interruption from the soldier, and left Page to pursue his melancholy reflections, till night coming on, one of the inferior officers conducted him to the place allotted him and his miserable companions, as a temporary lodging.

The greatest part of the night, he lay ruminating on the sufferings he had passed, and the troubles that awaited the future course of his life; till he arose to follow the same employ of doleful meditation. About ten in the morning, the recruits were mustered, in order to be fitted with their regimental clothes, and joined to such companies whose numbers were incomplete. Page was accordingly equipped with his military apparatus, and fixed in Captain Mac-Trifle's company,



pany, which was composed of the youngest and most sprightly fellows in the regiment, Mac-Trifle having very extraordinary interest in the East.

His Captain affected great approbation of his person, and ordered the serjeant, whose province was to train the recruits to the manual exercise, to be particularly careful of his improvement, as he seemed to be a very promising lad, and might make a considerable figure in his company.

This peculiar observance of our Orphan, which was deemed by the general part of the corps an honour and encouragement, served only to aggravate the mortification of the generous youth, as it reminded him of a conscious preference even in outside appearance to the rest of his associates, as well as his desperate condition in being ranked with a class of beings so inferior to him in natural and acquired qualifications.

When

When he came to join the company at a general muster, he could not but be shocked at the sight of a number of emaciated beings, whose pallid visages and meagre carcases, indicated a long destitution of the necessaries of life, as well as the wasting effects of a scorching climate.

He had often observed the arrogant manner in which puppies in office domineer over their inferiors in England, with just disdain, but could, upon this occasion, scarcely stifle his resentment, at the taunting insolence of these mock-officers, who sought occasions of exerting their authority, over a set of wretches, whose misery was sufficient to excite the compassion of every benevolent breast. Prudence however induced him to suppress his honest indignation, insomuch that for a considerable time, he only beheld their despicable behaviour with silent contempt.

But

But so insupportable was the treatment of one of the lieutenants in his own company towards him, that he could not refrain from remonstrating with him on his wanton cruelty. This pragmatistical fellow, having received intelligence from one of the serjeants, that Page affected a superior rank in life, as well as knowledge, to the major part of his fellow soldiers; instead of treating him with more lenity on that account, made him the constant butt of his insolence, and loaded him with the vilest invectives. When he found that opprobrious terms were not sufficient to work the oppressed youth up to a degree of frenzy, he proceeded to blows, which answered his malicious design by extorting from him, a kind of murmur at such unworthy treatment. This he construed into an insult offered him in the discharge of his duty and threatened, to bring Page to a court-martial; but at the intercession of another officer, mitigated his

his punishment, as it was then termed, by committing him to confinement for the space of four and twenty hours. This prison was a dismal dungeon, which sent forth a most nauseous stench, that in a sultry climate almost suffocated the unhappy sufferers, who were sentenced to its tremendous region.

The misfortunes of the hapless Orphan from the ill fated hour in which he was betrayed to ruin, seem to have been progressive, in point of aggravation; till arriving at their extent, they kindly relieved him from consummate distress.

This juncture was more poignant in its nature than any of the preceeding, not only as it subjected him to an excessive sweating, but represented to his fancy the most gloomy ideas. His former trials were lenient when compared with those under which he now laboured; for such were its complicated horrors, that the Editor could not attend  
to

to their meer relation, without the most affecting tremour.

In order to display this melancholy scene in the most effectual manner, the unhappy youth's verbal description is presented to the Reader.

“ As you have embraced every opportunity of attending to my dismal tale, nor have withheld the sympathetic tear from the calamities of your hapless friend ; I cannot omit an instance that is peculiarly affecting, and strongly calculated to impress every generous Briton with a just idea of the grievances, to which many of their fellow subjects are compelled to submit in these remote parts.

“ I have already observed the supercilious behaviour of many insignificant beings in office, in this Eastern settlement, and the contempt with which I beheld the arrogance of obscure wretches, who, having fled their country for misdemeanor, and rendered this remote  
clime

clime an asylum for villainy, can dare to insult the worthy, though unfortunate. Such representations I doubt not have kindled a just indignation in your guiltless bosom ; but how will it blaze with resentment, when I inform you that I was insulted by an ungrateful scoundrel who was servant at the boarding-school, where I received my education, and upon whom I had conferred many signal obligations.

“ This fellow had been favoured with a strong recommendation by an impotent lecher of great wealth and influence, as part of a reward to his sister, who had permitted his visits, and undergone the fatigue of gratifying the ridiculous humours of amorous dotage.

“ In consequence of his interest, he had not served as cadet six months, when he was preferred to the rank of lieutenant, and now is in daily expectation of a company.

When



“ When I first came on shore, instead of embracing me with a degree of cordiality, that might justly have been expected from former occurrences; he assumed a stern countenance and distant look, that seemed to indicate the strictest prohibition on his part from my claiming any prior knowledge of him. I took the hint, and reading his depraved mind in his distorted visage, with much difficulty, suppressed the exclamations which laboured in my breast, on account of his pride and ingratitude. I vainly apprehended, that my compliance with the order, which his look enjoined me, would have prevented his severity; but to my disappointment, I soon perceived, that he burned with an ignoble desire of exerting his authority, and giving me to understand, that affairs were now reversed, and that he expected from me a manifest token of my sense of his superiority.

“ With the utmost caution I avoided his presence, whenever attendance on  
duty

duty did not compel me to endure his detested sight, nor once made him any more than the common obeisance due from a despicable transport to his more fortunate officer. As he was very intimate with the lieutenant of whom I spoke, he endeavoured, by the most malicious insinuations, to prejudice him against me, and wrought him up to so inveterate an aversion, that he industriously sought cause for tormenting me. Thus cruelly disposed, whenever I was mustered amongst the rest, he pretended I was guilty of omissions, and constantly reproached me with pride, idleness, and presumption.

“ Their complicated spite at length prevailed, for being no longer able to suppress my resentment of their barbarity, I desired them for pity’s sake to suspend their rancour, nor add to the afflictions of a disconsolate being; staring the ungrateful wretch, who was the primary cause, full in the face.

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“ This

“ This is all they could urge in justification of their committing me to the vilest of dungeons, where I dragged out twenty-four tedious hours expecting that every moment would put a period to my wretched existence. I cannot describe to you the poignancy of my grief while under this most rigorous discipline ; for my body was so affected by the heat, which surpassed that of the hottest bath, and my mind so agitated with the ingratitude of the villain, who thus violated every generous and humane obligation, as well as the absolute impossibility of exposing his detestable conduct ; that no idea which you cannot form, is adequate to the horror of my state, while thus sacrificed to the lawless resentment and wanton cruelty of these blood-thirsty miscreants.

“ Suffice it upon the whole my friend, to assure you, that notwithstanding the  
veneration

veneration I ever maintain for the sacred  
 name of the deity, I was tempted to  
 blaspheme and arraign his providence,  
 for thus permitting a helpless innocent  
 to experience such aggravated, undeserv-  
 ing woes. But if I have sinned, I am  
 persuaded the guilt will be transferred  
 upon the impious heads of my savage  
 tormentors."

This is the sum and substance of what  
 the unfortunate Page delivered, concern-  
 ing this memorable period of his loath-  
 some life, nor was it heard without  
 thrilling the very soul of his sympathiz-  
 ing friend, who asking him the result of  
 his continuance in that dismal place, was  
 informed amidst a flood of tears, that  
 the barbarous wretches had obtained per-  
 mission from the captain, to protract  
 his misery for the space of twelve hours  
 longer, but were deprived of the horrid  
 gratification of their hellish malice, by  
 his being found upon the earth gasping  
 for life. Nay, such was the cruelty of this

wretch, that poor Page frequently declared, he really believed he sought to destroy him, in order to prevent his divulging the meanness of his extraction, the servility of his former employ, and the obligations under which he lay to that hapless youth; circumstances, which if known, would have unavoidably excited a general contempt of this despicable fellow.

The late discipline brought upon the sufferer a violent fever, attended with the flux, a complication that brought him extremely low, insomuch that he was sent to the hospital with small hopes of recovery.

Here he was treated with very little humanity, the hearts of the attendants of every kind being steeled against the tenderer feelings, by their constant residence in this seat of pain and anguish. As his situation was now tolerably easy and quiet, and he had leisure to indulge his meditations, he thought it a happy relief from his late confusion, and perplexity,

plexity, and upon the whole, esteemed it the happiest interval he had enjoyed since his landing upon the island, because his tranquillity was not interrupted by the impertinence of frivolous officers.

In process of time his disorders considerably abated, so that he was permitted to take nutrimental potions, and use those means of recovery, which would have been highly injurious during the prevalence of the flux.

Before he had been three weeks in the hospital his two friends, Manly and Syringe, came on shore, and finding out his situation, embraced the first opportunity of visiting their unfortunate shipmate.

This interview was attended with a mixture of joy and grief, and caused the tear of genuine sympathy to trickle down the cheek of each of these sincere and disinterested friends. An earnest desire of being made acquainted with the particular circumstances that had respectively befallen them since their separation,



separation, appeared in their countenances, and produced some very affecting remarks and observations. As Syringe was one of the faculty, he obtained some indulgence for his distressed friend, who was permitted to retire from the common ward into an adjacent chamber, where they might have an opportunity of freely disclosing their minds to each other.

As the situation of our hapless Orphan was the most peculiar and interesting in its nature, he was requested to open the result of his fate since his landing, without reserve, in order to gratify an ardent longing that had fixed its residence in the breasts of the Surgeon and Midshipman, from the very hour of his leaving the ship to the present moment. He ran through his affecting story, much in the manner as we have already related; but the emotions which it excited in the minds of his listening friends, exceed all description, for they attended him from

‘ scene

scene to scene with similar feelings, till the melancholy tale being closed, they seemed to anticipate each other in exclamatory reflections on the detestable authors of his aggravated misery, and condoling sighs for the undeserved fate of a generous youth.

Manly, who was of a choleric disposition, vowed vengeance on the two lieutenants, particularly the ungrateful villain, who had so basely availed himself of a change of fortune, as to retaliate evil for good, and become the tormentor of a helpless sufferer, of whom he ought in nature and in justice, to have been the support and protection. But his friends diverted him from the prosecution of his rash design, by reminding him, that such conduct would expose him to a more severe resentment than that he had already experienced on board; observing that the council in these settlements were extremely tenacious of their power, would take cognizance of

of the least indignity offered to rank and precedence, and therefore wisely concluded, that the brave Midshipman should by all means, suspend his honest resentment of the unwarrantable treatment of the oppressed Page, and rest satisfied with a hearty contempt, for the despicable perpetrators of such ignoble actions.

Manly complied with the advice of his friends, but insisted on venting his indignation in a few hints suggested on the occasion, to the following effect:

‘ Whatever pretence these swaggering  
 ‘ red-coated blades may make to honour  
 ‘ and courage, it has ever been an inva-  
 ‘ riable token of baseness and cowardice,  
 ‘ to pervert power to the abuse and op-  
 ‘ pression of the helpless and innocent.  
 ‘ Real honour and genuine courage are  
 ‘ nearly allied to humanity; they spring  
 ‘ from a noble principle, which disdains  
 ‘ a mean and ungenerous action; they  
 ‘ are actuated by motives truly noble,  
 ‘ generous

' generous and sublime, and consist, in  
 ' short, in a rectitude of conduct, and  
 ' proper resentment of injuries, whether  
 ' personal, relative, or national. Do not  
 ' therefore the very school-boys by their  
 ' behaviour give just occasion to these  
 ' heroes to blush; who deem it the foul-  
 ' est stain in their honour and courage  
 ' to contend with another, inferior in  
 ' point of years and strength? This plain  
 ' simple maxim in puerile conduct, daily  
 ' reproves the scandalous prostitution of  
 ' casual power in the bullies of our fleet,  
 ' and prigs of our army, many of whom  
 ' are more assiduous in cultivating the  
 ' manage of the rattan, than acquiring  
 ' the naval and military arts; and while  
 ' they assume an air of importance on  
 ' the quarter-deck and parade, there is  
 ' too much reason from their behaviour,  
 ' to suspect, they would skulk behind a  
 ' mast, or take to their heels, when called  
 ' to exercise their prowess against the ene-  
 ' mies of their country, and perform  
 ' that

' that duty on which they ground this  
 ' mighty precedence. Discipline is cer-  
 ' tainly requisite for the decorum of our  
 ' fleet and army, and the legislature has  
 ' wisely prescribed punishment for delin-  
 ' quents; but no honest mind will jus-  
 ' tify any pretence that may be inferred  
 ' from this allowed point, in vindica-  
 ' tion of those blows that are frequent-  
 ' ly given from meer caprice and wanton  
 ' cruelty; nor can any thing be more  
 ' repugnant to a martial spirit, than to  
 ' insult or abuse a brave fellow without  
 ' a cause; nay, I will add further, that  
 ' it is the essential property of a gallant  
 ' officer, to connive at a foible or slight  
 ' error in a man, whose general character  
 ' is unexceptionable. If these are truths,  
 ' with what disdain and contempt must  
 ' we reflect on the villains who have  
 ' offered such indign treatment to a  
 ' worthy youth, whose very situation in  
 ' life is a constant source of sorrow, and  
 ' who lives but to protract a state of mi-  
 ' sery, irremedial by all means, except  
 ' that

' that of death. O hapless Page ! you  
 ' cruel fate unmans me, and extorts  
 ' those tears, which I think no perso-  
 ' nal calamity could draw. I burn while  
 ' thus addressing you, with an impe-  
 ' tuous desire of retaliating your wrongs  
 ' upon all your tormentors, and would  
 ' willingly espouse your cause in single  
 ' combat with each respective villain,  
 ' till this right arm had done you justice,  
 ' or I had fallen a victim to the resent-  
 ' ment of poignant injuries, offered a  
 ' youth that is entitled to universal  
 ' esteem.

' Pardon these wild fallies, and pity  
 ' my anguish for want of words to ex-  
 ' press, or opportunity to evince the sen-  
 ' sibility I retain of your hard, your un-  
 ' paralleled fate.'

The manner in which the generous  
 Manly was affected by the sufferings  
 of his friend, does honour to human  
 nature, and rescues it from those infam-  
 ous aspersions, to which the general  
 conduct



conduct of mankind have rendered it too justly liable, as well as gives us ground to hope, that even in these depraved times, justice will find assertors, and humanity plead the cause, and redress the grievances of the oppressed.

The Surgeon, who possessed a good heart, and was sincerely desirous of contributing to the relief of the distressed youth, had recourse to his usual palliative, the probability of his finding a friend, who might prove his patron and deliverer; but the sanguine Manly exclaimed, talk not of hope; nothing reigns in the mind of our friend but despair, despair.

The calmness and composure with which our Orphan declared that he received the visit, and attended to the manner in which his friends were affected with his case, evinces amazing patience and consummate moderation, and cannot but add to the generous concern of every humane reader who deigns to peruse

peruse this narrative of extraordinary events.

When they had respectively uttered what their feelings suggested on the occasion, the Orphan thus coolly bespoke them.

‘ As the body by frequent correction  
 ‘ is rendered callous, so the mind, by incessant trouble, becomes less susceptible of incidental impressions from  
 ‘ extraordinary causes; hence I feel not  
 ‘ those convulsions which agitated my  
 ‘ frame on former occasions, and seem  
 ‘ armed against all the ills that can befall me. I am indeed at some seasons  
 ‘ so intolerably aggrieved with the pressure of my woes, that nothing can  
 ‘ sooth my tortured breast, but a certainty, that by their continuance they  
 ‘ will deprive me of that being, which  
 ‘ exist only to subject to me to their depredations.’

This remark of the Orphan closed the conference, and his friends departed.

N

after

after having made him a present according to their pittance, and promised him all the assistance they could afford him, during their stay upon the island:



## C H A P. VII.

Page recovers—Is dismissed the hospital and returns to his duty.—Repeated instances of the malice of his enemies.—The ship, which brought him from England, being on the point of departure for China, his friends take their leave of him.—Affecting scene on their parting, and sailing from the island.

**T**HE visit of his sincere and generous friends afforded our Orphan much satisfaction, as it corroborated his opinion, that disinterested amity still prevailed in the world, notwithstanding

standing the prevalence of deceit and formal profession.

Through the influence of Syringe, who was esteemed by all the faculty that knew him, for his knowledge in his profession, he was now treated with peculiar tenderness at the hospital, which added to the comforts that the liberality of his friends had enabled him to procure, greatly facilitated his cure, which was completed in about ten days after their departure.

But though he was deemed perfectly to have recovered from the complicated disorders under which he laboured at his admission; such was the indulgence of the surgeon, to whose care he had been committed, that he was entertained for near twelve days afterwards, and supplied with every thing that could contribute to the confirmation of his health.

When that time was elapsed, he was dismissed, and accordingly joining his corps, returned to the duties of his situation,

tion, but not without the utmost reluctance ; for his late interval of relief from the disagreeable service, added to his disgust now he was compelled once more to enter the odious list, and resume the galling yoke of the most abject slavery. Nor did former cruelties glut the causeless resentment of the inhuman villain, to whom the unfortunate youth owed his aggravated trials. Page indeed in the anguish of his mind, had intimated his former knowledge of him, and the services he had done him when in very necessitous circumstances ; and this reaching the ear of that arrogant, imperious coxcomb, so highly piqued his pride, that he determined to resent it in the continual vexation of the unfortunate youth, whose declaration solely arose from his wanton and capricious severity.

To add to the misfortunes of our Orphan, the malicious miscreant, whom we shall call by the name of Vamp, succeeded

succeeded Mac-Trifle in the command of his company, that officer having been promoted to the rank of colonel of the regiment, in the room of Peter Simple, Esq. lately deceased.

This preferment tended to the unlimited gratification of his pride and ambition, and afforded the utmost scope for the exercise of his oppression and cruelty on a number of unfortunate Englishmen, who though born to freedom, and professedly living under the best constitution upon earth, were subjected to the tyranny of a despicable being, whose success, so far from being the result of his own merit, was wholly owing to a vile interest, obtained by the infamous means of a sister's prostitution.

Poor Page, in consequence of this sudden change of affairs, was reduced to the dire necessity of publishing a falsehood, in retracting his former declaration, and professing that he was mistaken in his conjecture, having never seen Captain Vamp,



Vamp, previous to his landing at Bombay. Such a compulsion could not but extremely affect the unfortunate youth, who had a natural aversion to lying, and had ever acted when free, up to the very standard of honour: but alas! he was no longer independent either as to words or actions; the infamous Vamp had sent for him to his apartment, and insisted on an immediate recantation of what he had intimated relative to his former circumstances in life, upon pain of such severity as he could not conceive till its execution. After some pause, he reconciled an acquiescence with this peremptory injunction, both to his reason and his conscience, and promised compliance, soliciting at the same time his lenity, during the time of his commanding the company, for he still expected very considerable preferment.

Accordingly Vamp declared that he should be treated as his future conduct might deserve, irrespective of any thing  
that

that had passed ; but informed him, that the more effectually to obliterate his false and scandalous insinuation, he should in a short time send him a declaration to subscribe, which he intended to print and post in all the public places of the island.

The manner of this advertisement will at once convince the reader of the pride and ignorance of its author, and is presented as a specimen of Captain Vamp's knowledge and merit.

*Bombay, Jan. 10, 1750.*

‘ Whereas I John Page, private man  
 ‘ in Captain Walter Vamp Esquire’s  
 ‘ company, now lying in the island of  
 ‘ Bombay, did knowingly and willingly  
 ‘ ly give out and declare, that the said  
 ‘ right hononourable gentleman Captain  
 ‘ Walter Vamp Esq. was descended from  
 ‘ mean parents, that his father was a  
 ‘ thrasher, and himself a plough-driver, to  
 ‘ the great dishonour of the said honou-  
 ‘ rable

'rable gentleman Walter Vamp Esq.  
 'and the disgrace of his ancient and  
 'honourable family; as well as in de-  
 'fiance of truth: I do hereby solemnly  
 'and publicly revoke what I falsely  
 "and maliciously asserted, begging par-  
 'don of his honour for the offence I  
 'have committed, and promise to behave  
 'myself with all becoming duty and sub-  
 'jection, to the said Captain Walter  
 'Vamp Esq. for the future, and all  
 'other officers superior and inferior, as  
 'witness my hand

JOHN PAGE.'

Though Page, by his compliance with  
 this injunction of the infamous Vamp,  
 obviated those cruelties to which he was  
 previously exposed; the unhappy com-  
 pulsion gave him infinite concern, as he  
 had thereby acknowledged a character,  
 to him odious and despicable in the  
 highest degree, and subscribed to an ab-  
 solute falsity.

Thus

Thus situated he formed many resolutions of recanting, but when he reflected with deliberation on his want of credit in that part of the world, and the great power and influence of Vamp, considerations of the greatest weight in every quarter of the globe; he was convinced that every attempt to justify his conduct, would not only be vain, but subject him to more rigorous treatment, if possible, than that he had already experienced from that insolent and arrogant officer.

He therefore determined to submit to his fate, persuaded that neither reason nor justice would deem his compliance the least infringement on their sacred dictates.

But being of a speculative turn of mind, he could not refrain some remarks on so extraordinary an incident to this purport.

‘ This circumstance of my life, added  
 ‘ to many others, convinces me of the  
 ‘ great

' great difficulty of determining intrinsic  
 ' merit of merit of character ; as truth  
 ' is so frequently liable to be obscured,  
 ' and the most palpable falshood imposed  
 ' as attested fact. Human life may  
 ' with great justice and propriety be  
 ' compared to what I have read on  
 ' ship-board in a book of Manly's, con-  
 ' cerning a masquerade, in which the  
 ' persons present assume various guises,  
 ' in order to indulge a vicious propen-  
 ' sity, without being known, and gratify  
 ' those inclinations which they affect to  
 ' despise. Such is my unhappy fate,  
 ' that I am compelled to subscribe my-  
 ' self a villain, though my conscience  
 ' acquits me of every disingenuous acti-  
 ' on, while I justify the character of a  
 ' scoundrel, who I am confident deserves  
 ' the [public odium. Precarious state of  
 ' mortality ! transient vapour of ex-  
 ' istence ! wherefore court we thy con-  
 ' tinuance, as thou art composed of va-  
 ' nity, shadow, and illusion ? fantastic  
 ' forms

'forms of power, rank, dignity, and  
 'precedence, wherefore are ye desired  
 'by the virtuous, when your general  
 'office is to consecrate the crimes of  
 'your possessors? O righteous judge,  
 'the certainty of thy final award is in no  
 'instance more forcibly evinced, than  
 'in the monstrous perversions of equity,  
 'daily incidental at the bar of human ju-  
 'dicature. Teach me therefore, to live  
 'in the world, as one out of it, nor  
 'suffer me to be too deeply impressed  
 'by any of its changes, as they respect  
 'not intellectual happiness, nor can rob  
 'the honest mind of its conscious in-  
 'tegrity.'

In this manner did the worthy youth  
 exculpate and console himself after the  
 late transaction, nor did the taunts and  
 insults, consequent on the same from  
 people of every rank, in the least affect  
 him, as he was convinced that it was  
 justifiable on his part, on every prin-  
 ciple of rectitude.

This



This event principally engrossed the attention of our Orphan, during a long absence of his friends, whose respective avocations had detained them on board a considerable time, nor were they permitted to go on shore at every season of leisure, through the enmity the chief and third mates had conceived, meerly on account of their generously relieving an unfortunate youth.

Thus Page had his enemies both on board and on shore, insomuch, that it required more than a common degree of fortitude, to sustain their united efforts to render his distress intolerable.

Amidst these complicated ills, it is not to be wondered, if the weary sufferer shrunk under his load, or frequently repined at the rigour of his punishment.

Persons in ease and affluence may deliver lectures on patience and resignation, in a very plausible tone, and urge the

the duty of submission on the score of the demerit of the best men. The pampered priest may very elaborately harangue on the doctrine of contentment, while he enjoys a fat benefice, and is grasping at plurality; the frantic Enthusiast may bawl out for contempt of the world, and affect to glory in persecution, while he fleeces his besotted followers, and laughs in his sleeve at the profitable effects of his hypocrisy; but nature will be nature still, and compel us to feel most sensibly a deprivation of its supports and comforts, notwithstanding all that may be alledged to the contrary.

As our Orphan therefore could not divest himself of the properties of his species, nor alter that constitution, which by a tender nurture, was rendered delicate; he felt more perceptibly the rigour of his situation, and by how much the more his former state was easy and pleasant, by so much the more was his

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present,

present, painful and melancholy ; consequently, his patience and resignation reflect more honour on his character as a man and a Christian, than is due to the puny virtues of many canonized saints.

Though Page became accustomed to soldiers fare and duty upon this island, the peculiar nature of his case, and the excessive heat of the climate, preying on his constitution, afforded him a grateful assurance, that his life would not be protracted to any considerable length, and by that means produced at times, a degree of insensibility of the trials to which he was exposed, nevertheless, his condition upon the whole was such, as redounds to the eternal disgrace of the immediate and secondary causes of inflicting such evils, even upon the meanest and most unworthy of the human race.

The time of departure from the island now approaching, the mind of the distressed

treffed Page was filled with the most solicitous desire of seeing his friends, Manly and Syringe, as well as greatly affected with the fear of being deprived of an opportunity of bidding them an eternal farewell.

While he laboured under this anxiety concerning a circumstance to him of all others the most important, orders were issued for a general and daily muster of the respective companies in the regiment to which he belonged, in order to prepare them for a review, by the Governor of Bombay, as commotions had been lately excited through the perfidy of some officers, belonging to the French East-India company, and they were expected to be sent very soon upon an expedition against the enemy.

Our Orphan was not so much alarmed at the apprehension of danger, as he was disgusted with one dull round of duty, which might agreeably employ

a mind less speculative, but appeared to him calculated only for persons of inferior talents, who are strangers to the more refined methods of passing time. Nor did the insolence of serjeants and corporals, on this occasion, pass unnoticed by Page, who could not but despise their affectation of the haughty airs and supercilious deportment of their superiors, while he, with some difficulty, submitted to their unreasonable abuse.

By constant practice he became an adept in the manual exercise, and with less trouble acquired more knowledge in military duty, than the major part of his corps, insomuch that he might have hoped for preferment in any other company than that to which he belonged; but he was too wise to entertain the most distant hope of advantage, while under the command of Vamp, who would certainly exert his utmost efforts to prevent the least step that might tend to raise the generous youth to a situation,

situation, in which he might confront and expose him to public shame and irretrievable disgrace. He went on indeed, without sustaining any ill, or receiving any good from this officer, who conscious of his late baseness, took no notice of him; from whence appeared the propriety of his acquiescing with his injunction, as he thereby obtained an exemption from the effect of his malice, which, had he not complied, would have harraressed him incessantly.

His fear of losing an interview with his friends, previous to their eternal separation, was now increased [by the command which was given to the regiment, to hold themselves in readiness to embark on the shortest notice, on board one of the country ships in the harbour, which was to convey them to some other settlement, that required their defence and protection.

To leave no method unattempted in order to accomplish the most ardent



desire he entertained, he determined to spare a part of his pittance, as a gratuity to one of the sailors who belonged to the boat's crew, in consideration of his carrying off a few lines to Manly; but was prevented a considerable time, by being unable to procure pen and paper, which were forbidden to all the recruits, that they might not have an opportunity of transmitting to their friends in England an account of the base manner in which they had been trepanned, and of publishing to the world the iniquity that is committed through the connivance of justice, and the sanction of wealth and power.

However, he determined to apply to the lieutenant, [a young fellow of some principle,] for permission, which he obtained on condition of shewing him the contents of the billet, and delivering it to the sailor in his presence. Accordingly he retired to his quarters and wrote the following lines which were transcribed from his copy.

Most

Most valued Friend,

**T**HE time of our separation approaches; without ceremony therefore, I beg you, together with Syringe, will come on shore as soon as possible, if you can obtain permission; but if it should be denied, acquaint your hapless friend, that he may place that only gratification he has now to expect, to the score of his other distresses, and assure you in return, that during life, you will exist in the grateful remembrance of

J. PAGE.

It happened very fortunately for our Orphan, and his friend, that at this juncture, Mr. Hearty the second mate, was commanding officer on board; as on producing the billet, they immediately obtained permission, and a sum of money, to present to their unfortunate friend.

Being thus gratified through the benevolence of this worthy officer, they  
hastened

hastened to the anxious youth, who received them with equal joy and surprise, and heard with transport their good fortune, in his sending at a time Mr. Hearty was on board, as in all probability the arrogant and malicious Testy would have deprived them of this last interview.

Page had just come off guard, therefore was at leisure to spend the day with them, and though he laboured under much indisposition, the sight of his friends added vigour to his depressed spirits, and the opportunity of disclosing what had occurred since their last interview, fulfilled a desire which he had long indulged.

In order to enjoy an uninterrupted conference, they went to a house of entertainment, ordered a dinner to be provided, and took possession of a private room. As soon as they were seated, Manly informed his unfortunate friend, that the posted declaration, relative to  
his

his traducing the character of Captain Walter Vamp, Esq. [as that puppy had stiled himself,] was become a general topic of conversation on board, from the round-house to the fore-castle, and that he burnt with desire of being made acquainted with the particulars, informing Page at the same time, that as remarks on men and things was a laudable employ for rational beings; they could not pass their time better till dinner was served up, than in attending to the character of this gentleman, the circumstances that had made so much noise of late, and drawing such reflections as the detail might naturally suggest.

As an author of established reputation has declared digressions, which have an instructive tendency to be the most valuable part of this sort of writing; the Editor inserts without scruple the substance of all remarks communicated to him, and sometimes presumes to

to moralize a little himself, submitting the propriety of his inferences to the judgment of the candid reader. But to the point.—As punctilios are odious to rational minds, the Orphan immediately complied with the proposal of Manly, and thus addressed his attentive friends.

‘ Prepare yourselves for an equal degree of surprize and contempt, as well as one of the best lessons of human nature, that your former experience can possibly have afforded you; for the story I am about to relate will display in most glaring colours, the ingratitude, pride, folly and cruelty, which too generally prevail in the world.’ After a short pause, he proceeded; ‘ The blustering gentleman in office, who has lately made himself so popular by extorting from me an acknowledgement, which I shall hereafter justify to you my friends, is nothing more than the son of a poor tenant of my deceased father, who rented a cottage and was casually employed by him, as business

'ness required his attendance. This  
 'son used to drive the plough till he  
 'arrived to the age of about ten years,  
 'when the honest rustic, desirous that  
 'the boy should learn to write and read,  
 'prevailed with the master of a board-  
 'ing school, a few miles distant from  
 'his habitation, to take him into the  
 'house, on condition of his doing all  
 'the menial services that might be al-  
 'lotted him. When he lived about  
 'four years in that state, I was sent  
 'to the very school, and having seen him  
 'about my father's house, took particu-  
 'lar notice of him, and did him what  
 'little services my childish state would  
 'admit. Possessing that subtilty, inse-  
 'parable from the character of a villain,  
 'he strove by every method to gratify  
 'my youthful follies, and would often  
 'submit to a degree of meanness which  
 'appeared even despicable to my inex-  
 'perienced mind. However, when I  
 'acquainted my indulgent parents with  
 'Walter's



‘ Walter’s assiduity in pleasing me at  
 ‘ school, they made his father confide-  
 ‘ rable presents, and took him into  
 ‘ constant employ. I was no less grate-  
 ‘ ful according to my trifling allowance, so  
 ‘ that Watt was amply compensated  
 ‘ for the little pleasing offices he did me.  
 ‘ As he was not of a capacity for im-  
 ‘ provement, after having been seven  
 ‘ years in this place, he could only read  
 ‘ so as to be understood, and with some  
 ‘ difficulty scrawl enough for the lowest  
 ‘ offices in life; though he began to  
 ‘ behave with arrogance to his equals,  
 ‘ for inferiors he had none. At this  
 ‘ time he was sent for by his father in  
 ‘ great haste, a message having arrived  
 ‘ from London, to summon his imme-  
 ‘ diate attendance there. When the ho-  
 ‘ lidays came on, and I went as usual  
 ‘ to spend them with my parents, I en-  
 ‘ quired the reason of Watt’s leaving  
 ‘ us in this abrupt manner, and was  
 ‘ told to my surprize and astonishment,  
 ‘ that his sister had set up for the fine  
 ‘ lady

' lady in town and intended to make  
 ' a gentleman of her brother: Suspect-  
 ' ing that this reply was not serious, I  
 ' desired my father to be more explicit  
 ' in his information, and he frankly  
 ' gave me to understand, that Kate  
 ' having been sent up to service, had at-  
 ' tracted the eye of a rich merchant, who  
 ' had seduced her from her place, rob-  
 ' bed her of her virtue, and still kept  
 ' her as the idol of his soul. The silly  
 ' girl, instead of concealing, gloried in  
 ' her shame, and had exposed herself in  
 ' her native village, tricked out in all  
 ' the fopperies of the vainest of her sex;  
 ' but no eye beheld her without con-  
 ' tempt, nor was she free from the ri-  
 ' dicule of any one of her former com-  
 ' panions. When Walter arrived in  
 ' London, he was immediately divested  
 ' of his rustic garb, and presented with  
 ' a complete dress in the very peak of  
 ' the mode, nor did he fail of shewing  
 ' himself in the country, though I lost

P

' the

‘ the fight, being at that time more lau-  
 ‘ dably employed in my studies at school.  
 ‘ To be brief, after he had resided in  
 ‘ town about six months, and was  
 ‘ thought to have acquired a sufficient  
 ‘ knowledge of behaviour, to commence  
 ‘ the gentleman; his sister’s interest  
 ‘ procured him a very strong recommen-  
 ‘ dation to the president and council of  
 ‘ this island, and he arrived hither, as  
 ‘ I was informed, in quality of a cadet,  
 ‘ from which the influence of his patron,  
 ‘ had, in the space of about three  
 ‘ years, raised him to his present situa-  
 ‘ tion.

‘ This is a detail of the adventures of  
 ‘ Captain Vamp, from whence, my  
 ‘ friends, you will be able to infer the  
 ‘ propriety of his conduct towards me,  
 ‘ as well as conceive the real character  
 ‘ and disposition of the man.’

Page had scarcely concluded this nar-  
 rative, when Manly burst out into the  
 most vehement exclamations against such  
 a disgrace to human nature, as well as  
 such

such depravity in mankind, who in compliance with paltry interests and connections, confer posts of honour and profit on those, whose vices should expose them to general contempt, and universal disapprobation. But Syringe, pulling him by the sleeve, laconically observed ; that Captain Vamp, notwithstanding all his moralizing, might not be the last, who should owe his preferment to petticoat interest.

Page, being then desired to hasten to the circumstance which had lately made so much noise, concisely related what had previously passed, and is not necessary to be repeated in this place. When his friends heard the whole proceeding, they could not but heartily despise the conduct of Vamp, and exculpate the unfortunate Page. Manly, who was a young fellow of great penetration, and could intuitively discern the merits of causes, desired that he would not give way to a moment's anxiety, on account of a transaction to which he was compelled by all

the dictates of reason, nature, and justice.

By this time they had regaled themselves, and night drawing on, when the friends of our Orphan were ordered to repair on board, as they expected to weigh anchor in the morning; it was determined to employ the little interval that remained, in a manner becoming men of reason and resolution. Manly therefore, sensible that actions must testify friendship, presented the hapless youth with his last donation, in a manner that could not but charm a generous beholder, accompanying it with these words: ‘Accept, worthiest though most unfortunate Youth, this last token of a sincere regard for the virtues of your mind, and genuine sympathy for your complicated woes. I have performed all the offices my situation would admit, as a man and a friend, and can only lament that so signal an opportunity has offered for the display of my humanity,

' nity, at a juncture when I have been  
 ' thus deprived of the power. Deign  
 ' therefore to receive the will as the  
 ' deed, and solace yourself with an as-  
 ' surance, that your hapless fate, so poig-  
 ' nant and so undeserving, has made a  
 ' sensible impression on one honest breast,  
 ' and bedewed the cheeks that disdain an  
 ' hypocritical tear. O never, never de-  
 ' part from the principles, by which you  
 ' have hitherto acted, but as you have  
 ' thus strenuously maintained the cause  
 ' of virtue, persevere to the end. Your  
 ' experience has already convinced you,  
 ' that merit is not the road to prefer-  
 ' ment, that grandeur is not the atten-  
 ' dant on goodness, nor riches the lot of  
 ' the just; but on the contrary, that in-  
 ' trinsic worth is too often obscured under  
 ' the gloom of poverty, the veil of mo-  
 ' desty, and the calumny of malice. As  
 ' this is the case, suffer not the events of  
 ' human life to perplex you above mea-  
 ' sure. Remember, that all sensual en-  
 ' joyments.



‘joyments are precarious ; nor ever for-  
 ‘get that impartial award, which will  
 ‘manifest to the world all characters as  
 ‘they are, tear off the guises that are  
 ‘here assumed, applaud the just, and pu-  
 nish the guilty.’

Our Orphan was delighted with the philosophy of his friend, which contributed greatly to allay the grief under which he laboured at their approaching separation, and he determined to summon reason to his aid, and sustain the affecting stroke as became a man. But alas ! what are our best resolutions ? our brittle frame cannot stand against violent assaults, our sorrows must have vent, and when truly affected, we must express our feeling.

Such was the case with the virtuous Page, who then parted with his friends with apparent composure ; for as the wind was not at that time fair, he was supported by a fond hope of another interview ; but in the morning, when from  
 his

his post as centinel, he beheld the ship under way, all his resolutions failed, and grief possessed his soul. His mind was tortured with the remembrance of the friendly intercourse he had maintained with two generous shipmates; the despair of meeting with another social and humane being in the future course of his life; and the forlorn situation in which he was now left. Thus agitated, he gazed till the vessel was out of sight, when he burst into tears, tore his hair, and discovered every symptom of frantic despair.

The departure of the ship had represented to his mind the happy prospect of the meanest on board, who were now on their passage to their native country; while he was deemed to perpetual exile, sentenced to incessant slavery, and consigned to remediless misery. This reflection was aggravated by considering, that if on their arrival in England, his friends might acquaint his relations with  
his

his unhappy fate; their want of power to redress his injuries from the uncertain residence of the infamous Crimps, or the prevailing influence of such as protect them, would add to the wretchedness of those whom he held most dear, and render them equally miserable with himself.

As the perplexed mind is ever ready to suggest distressing thoughts, it occurred to the afflicted youth at this critical season; that if his friends should succeed in their application for justice, and orders should be sent for his discharge and honourable conveyance to England, he might at that time be employed in some remote part of the country, or in a tedious expedition, or probably never return to the place, where such information might arrive; so that every dawn of hope was banished from his mind, and a thousand gloomy reflections absorbed his faculties, and rendered him  
for

for a time, a spectacle equally shocking with the most frantic inhabitant of the mansions of Bedlam.



C H A P. VIII.

Melancholy effects of the late event.

—Page embarks with his corps on board a country ship.—Instances of the humanity of a Lascar.—General reflections upon slavery.

**I**T is very natural to suppose, that the mental distraction of our hapless Orphan was productive of bodily indisposition, as there is a constant sympathy subsisting between the mental and corporal frames, or in other words, as the state of the mind in general will affect the habit of the body.

Words cannot describe the melancholy result of the late event, nor can all the art of rhetoric display the piercing

ing sensations, and consummate wretchedness of this generous youth thus desperately unfortunate.

The extreme agitation of his mind had affected the whole nervous system, and brought on him an incessant tremour ; so that he was rendered incapable of the common offices of life, and therefore once again conveyed to the hospital. But here he found not the reception he expected in consequence of his friend's recommendation ; for as all the former officiousness of the surgeon and nurse had been the effect of Syringe's instructing the one and seeing the other, and his departure had deprived them of every advantageous prospect ; they treated him with their usual neglect and contempt.

This circumstance brought to his mind the sordid motives by which the generality of mankind are actuated, and the intrinsic value of a generous, disinterested friendship, an exalted generosity

rosity of soul, which disposes the possessor to good actions without the least regard to self, that prevailing consideration with the million.

His surgeon indeed seemed very ready to give him advice, and would frequently remind him of the folly of thinking more highly of himself, than became one in his station, which instead of alleviating, would increase his troubles. This was a doctrine that had been frequently recommended to him since his arrival in these Eastern climes; he therefore heard it with indifference, and silent contempt of the hardened wretch who now delivered it.

Having in this place leisure to reflect, he could not but reproach himself for his late frantic behaviour, and condemn his impious arraignment of the wise disposer of events, in allotting him a fate so peculiarly dire. In attonement therefore, for the excursions and wild fallies to which his distresses had impetuously driven



driven him, he determined on a placid acquiescence with his future fate, and resigned submission to all the ills that might befall him in the course of his slavery.

The state of his mind being thus rendered tranquil through the assistance of reason and religion; his nervous disorder proportionably abated, so that being deemed capable of his duty, he was discharged, and once more resumed his abject station.

But though Page, by means of these laudable resolutions, dispelled that degree of despair which sometimes disqualified him for the common functions of life; though he was not always frantic, he was ever melancholy; a continual gloom sat on his countenance, and grief was indelibly stamped on his features. His aspect indicated a generous mind oppressed with sorrow, and the trickling tear that frequently bedewed his once ruddy, but now pallid cheek, bespoke some

some extraordinary shock too violent for frail nature to sustain. Though in the bloom of life, he carried the marks of all the ills that can be supposed to occur in the term of the greatest age; as through the aggravated nature of his misfortunes, and the extreme susceptibility of his disposition, they had so excessively preyed on his vital frame. In this state of body and mind, he was ordered to embark with the company to which he belonged, on board a ship in the harbour, that was to convey them on a destined expedition to some other settlements.

These ships are chiefly manned with the natives, who are called Lascars, poor wretches that are frequently treated with incredible barbarity, and exhibit a picture of distress and misery that cannot but shock the humane beholder. Such was the herd with which our Orphan was promiscuously huddled between decks, where there prevailed a most nauseous stench, through the smell that is pecu-

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liar to these Indians, and the foil of the lazy part of the Englishmen. Page was remarkable for the cleanliness and neatness of his appearance under an ordinary garb, and from such a disposition could not but be greatly disgusted at the crew, with which he was compelled to associate.

His present situation was very irksome, not meerly on account of the coarseness of his fare, but the indelicacy of his companions, who happened all to be of the lower class of people, and utter strangers to every refined and generous sentiment.

Thus situated, he could only bode over misfortunes in reflection, as he well knew, the least complaint, instead of exciting pity, would contribute to the sportive mirth of wretches, who seemed to have been fitted for their abject state. Nevertheless in spite of all his resolution, an involuntary tear would sometimes drop as he walked the deck, which being observed

observed by a poor Lascar that attended on the captain, excited the desire of that benevolent Pagan, to know the cause, which produced so extraordinary an effect. Watching therefore an opportunity, he asked him in his broken manner of speaking, and in a plaintive tone, ‘ Why he have cryee when nobody have knockee him ? ’ The Orphan struck with the sensibility of a Heathen, told him that he would take another opportunity of gratifying his desire, and retiring below, thus reflected with himself on the extraordinary occasion.

“ Though I revere the Christian system, as most happily conducive to promote an universal benevolence, both from the examples it sets forth, and the precepts it inculcates ; I cannot but despise the greatest part of its professors, who seem to be actuated by principles repugnant to its very genius ; and while they pique themselves upon a meer name, and look down with contempt upon the uncultivated Heathen ; can see

the most poignant distress of their fellow creatures, yea their fellow Christians, without the least emotion of tenderness or sympathy.

“ Indeed I have observed, that the forms of religion scarcely prevails in this part of the world; while the practice of it is wholly unfashionable; the only principles that seem to operate here, are avarice, ambition, and cruelty. A few petty tyrants, delegated by their more tyrannical masters in Europe, exercise a lawless sway over a number of unfortunate beings, whom poverty, infamy, or vile fraud have exposed to their caprice and cruelty.

“ In the course of my troubles, three Christians have evinced the prevalence of a benevolent principle; the next humane being, (shame to our complexion and education) appears in the character of an Indian, a Pagan. My griefs seem to have reached his heart, and the poor slave, untaught in the school of virtue, is disposed,

disposed, if I can discern aright, to do me those kind offices, which have been denied by my fellow Christians, my Countrymen. Away then with title, name, and distinction, and be the crown of honour placed on the head of intrinsic merit alone! talk not to me of Christian nor Heathen, of white nor black, of prince, nor slave; but shew me the being in human form, who does honour to his nature by a behaviour correspondent with the eternal obligations of truth and justice; and I will unfeignedly revere him."

Such were the remarks suggested to the mind of our Orphan on the late occasion, nor was he mistaken in his opinion concerning the enquiring Indian, who having great influence with his master, on account of this fidelity, soon conferred many favours upon him, and evinced the truth of the foregoing observations.

As



As they had frequent intercourses, Page gradually rendered him perfectly sensible of the nature of his case, and the generous Indian, though rude and uncultivated, having a good natural understanding, and a disposition truly benevolent, was affected with each circumstance as became a man, nor would have done dishonour to a Christian.

His long continuance in the service of Englishmen had rendered their language familiar to him, as well as inured him to their customs, so that he could maintain a conversation on any common topic; and indeed, Page esteemed him the worthiest character, and preferred his company to that of any one on board.

The intimacy that subsisted between our Orphan, and this Indian, drew on him the contempt, not only of his officers, but his companions, who esteemed it the greatest instance of meanness in a white man and a Christian to associate with a Lascar, and a Pagan, though they

they could be guilty of actions, which that very Heathen despised.

Page was at length so incensed with the taunts he received on this account, that no longer able to suspend his resentment, he frankly declared his opinion of the superiority of the Indian, in point of disposition, to the major part even of the white men on board, which declaration subjecting him to the insolence of an ensign belonging to his company, extorted from him a behaviour that was construed into an offence, and exposed him to very rigorous treatment.

Mr. Flag, who was not a little elated with his paltry preferment, presuming that he had an undoubted right to decide in all cases, when his superior officer was absent, ordered Page to be taken into custody, and there detained till the case should be determined by a Court-Martial.

Accordingly he was confined to his birth and guarded, though there was no danger of his escaping, by two centinels,  
who

who in their turns failed not to load him with the foulest reproaches, which were more afflicting to him than any corporal punishment they could have devised.

Page, on the first opportunity that offered, acquainted his Indian friend, with the nature of the case that had reduced him to his present abject situation, insinuating at the same time, that if any method could be concerted to prevent the affair from being referred to the determination of the Court-Martial, it might exempt him from the severity of their award.

His friend, therefore, applied to his master in behalf of the oppressed youth, and he kindly interposing, a pardon was promised, on condition of his imploring forgiveness of the offended gentleman, upon his knees, in the presence of the whole ship's company, as well as all the soldiers on board.

This compulsion did not a little mortify the unfortunate Page, who possessed  
a spirit

a spirit superior to mean and little actions; but as in some former, so in the present case, inclination was forced to submit to necessity; and a gentleman by birth, education, and behaviour, obliged to make the lowest condescension to a despicable wretch, who could urge no justifiable pretence to the respect and esteem of one ingenuous mind.

This affair was conducted with all the formality and parade, usual on such occasions; every person on board was mustered; the state of the case represented with a mighty air of solemnity; the clemency of the offended ensign very elaborately displayed by Captain Vamp, who was spokesman, and advice given to the delinquent, with the most ceremonious affectation; after which, a caution was delivered to all present, concerning the duty and obedience they owed to their officers, and then they were dismissed to their respective situations.

But this treatment, on account of his attachment to the generous and friendly Indian,

Indian, did not in the least abate the respect of Page, for so worthy an object; on the contrary, the sincerity he had evinced in his application to the Captain his master, in his helpless case, enhanced his esteem for so amiable a character, among a set of people whom he had heard branded with every odious appellation.

Nor was his respect without just foundation; for such was the compassion of the poor slave, that he had offered himself to undergo whatever sentence the Court might pronounce, esteeming the hard fate of the distressed youth, owing to the notice he had first taken of him; of these humane sentiments was the Heathen possessed.

The conduct of this Indian, and the exalted disposition which he evinced, turned the thoughts of our Orphan towards the propriety and justice of enslaving any human being, under whatever pretence their usurping and tyrannical fellow-creatures might alledge, and drew  
from

from him some remarks to this purport.

“ So amazingly prevalent is the force of tyrant custom, that it adds a sanction to practices neither justifiable on principles of nature, reason, nor religion. Because the abominable method of enslaving our fellow creatures has long prevailed, many fancy they have an undoubted right to follow an established rule, and laugh at those who attempt to demonstrate the iniquity and injustice of this practice. But it is very certain, that the remotest precedent cannot justify a bad custom, nor can numberless examples evince the propriety of an iniquitous conduct.

“ If they cite the necessity of slaves in our Colonies and foreign settlements; their cruel and rapacious temper; their being Heathens, and in short that most prevailing argument, the great sums which the Guinea trade in particular brings in: all these observations will fall

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to the ground, when we consider, that it has been rendered evident by demonstration undeniable, that these persons over whom the white men arrogate a dominion, are formed from the hand of the adorable Creator, with faculties capable of all the functions in human life, and consequently if blessed with equal advantages for their improvement, would contribute to the good of society as essentially, as those of another colour. In short, they differ merely in the complexion of a skin, and an unhappy deprivation of that knowledge in science and religion, which instead of being alleged as a ground for enslaving them, ought to excite the pity of those especially who pretend to the title of Christian, and induce them to use every means to bring these unhappy beings to a right understanding of themselves, of their Creator, and of Society in general. If it be urged that the peculiarly unfortunate situation of these people, is owing to any

any judicial cause, I believe those who usurp a despotic power over them, would, on serious reflection and conscientious examination of their own hearts, discover many crimes which deserve as severe a punishment, especially when it is observed, that their transgressions are committed against the clearest light and evidence, and in manifest repugnance to the dictates of their reason, and the conviction of their own minds.

“ This honest Indian, this Pagan slave, has shewn in the most undeniable manner, that he is endued with sympathy and benevolence, two principles, that do great honour to human nature, and are not ranked in the lower class of Christian virtues. He appears also to have a good conception of things, as far as they could occur in his sphere of life, and has discovered an apprehension that amazed me: Now as this is the case with one of these people, it is doubtless the same with many others,

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if not with all ; so that upon the whole, their deplorable state seems to be the effect of the tyranny and avarice of those, who through the no more deserved favour of an indulgent providence, have it in their power to oppress them.

“ Surely it must appear to every thinking person, that if we consider mankind in general, of all climates and complexions, as forming one grand chain of human society ; it manifestly tends to the detriment of the whole, when those officers are assigned to the human, which only belong to the brutal creation. Upon the whole, nothing can add more disgrace to human nature, than the abominable practice of mankind in preying upon each other, and this custom contracts more aggravated guilt, when followed by the inflicting of barbarities, which they will not exercise on their brutes.”

The remainder of the time on board,  
Page passed without any thing remarkable

ble occurring; kept up his intercourse with his Indian friend, and received many favours from his benevolent hand; till after a winding and tedious passage, having put into some places on the Malabar coast; they stood to the Northward, and at length arrived at Madras, whence they were destined to proceed on a military expedition.



## C H A P. IX.

Prelude.—The corps to which the Orphan belongs proceeds to action in concert with others.—Instances of the near alliance between courage and honour, and the affinity between cowardice and tyranny.—Observations on some Indian customs and manners.—Remarks of the Editor on the foregoing passages.

**O**UR Orphan being now ready to enter upon action in a military capacity, it will be necessary to give a

brief description of the seat of war in that spot whereon he engaged, as well as the causes which gave rise to such hostile commotions.

The ambition and intrigues of the French Court, not confined to the Continent of America, had extended to the East-Indies, where they had artfully endeavoured to embroil the English company with the Nabobs, or Viceroys of the great Mogul, in different parts of his Empire.

New to understand the military transactions in this part of the world, it is necessary to inform the Reader, that a Nabob is the governor of a province, or of a single town and its territory. These Nabobs are all tributary to the Mogul Emperor, but act in other respects as absolute monarchs within their respective territories; for which reason the Europeans settled on that coast, have endeavoured to court or command a regard from the Nabobs in their neighbourhood.

Hence

Hence arose the chief cause of dispute between the French and English ; for the former, having observed, about a year before this period, that the latter had ingratiated themselves with the Nabob of Arcot, one the provinces of the Mogul ; commenced hostilities, and in an engagement, slew the Nabob and routed his army.

In consequence of these proceedings, the son of the deceased Nabob, being joined by a neighbouring Viceroy, determined to retaliate on the French the injuries they had done his father, and accordingly attacked and routed them in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry. However, by the stratagem and address of the governor of the last mentioned place, who found means to raise a powerful interest amongst the viceroys of some adjacent provinces ; the son of the deceased Nabob of Arcot was obliged to take shelter in the Trichenopoly, a place of great strength to the southward, and



enemy, who had collected an army, and were approached within nine miles of Madrafs.

Accordingly, coming up with them at Coverupante, about fifteen miles from Arcot, he gave them a total defeat, and besides the killed, took a French lieutenant and forty-eight men prisoners, with all the enemies cannon, and a great quantity of warlike stores. He then returned with his forces to Fort St. David's, having in his way demolished a new town, which the French governour had caused to be built.

The company to which Page belonged, was likewise employed in this last transaction, so that for the short time of his residence in this part of the world, he had gained a considerable experience in the nature of their military engagements.

Nor was this the least agreeable part of his adventures; for the generous youth frequently declared, that to face his enemy

my in the field was becoming a man, and that he was ever willing to stand the common chance of war ; nay it appeared from the testimony of several of his fellow soldiers, that he had acquitted himself on this, and every other occasion of the like kind, with great spirit and resolution.

But such was the pusillanimous behaviour of the lieutenant, who, together with Captain Vamp, had sought occasion to add to the miseries of the unfortunate youth, that it caused his suspension from duty, and incurred on him the contempt of the whole corps. That dastardly officer, having been dispatched at the head of about fifty men, in pursuit of a few stragglers, who had taken a different route from the main army, advanced with such apparent caution and timidity, as suffered every one of them to make their escape, and by obtaining a reinforcement, afforded them an opportunity of rallying, to the disadvantage of the small detachment,

detachment, several of whom fell into their hands.

The different behaviour of the distressed Page and the insolent lieutenant, plainly indicated the different principles by which they were actuated, and proves, that on certain occasions, the prevailing disposition of every individual will appear.

Our Orphan had never been designed for a martial life, he had been forced into the service against his consent, trepanned by vile fraud, suffered numerous hardships, and been treated with almost every mark of indignity; yet as there was now no prospect of escaping, nor the least hope of exempting himself from the dire obligation; he determined to behave like a man, and convince every one around him, that he detested cowardice, as much as he disdained slavery; ever resolved to assert the dignity of his nature, and act consistently with the character he had long gloried to maintain.

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Not so the abject wretch, who had so infamously perverted his power, to the abuse of a youth of such noble and sublime principles; he had voluntarily entered the service, assumed the martial profession, been preferred beyond his merit, and treated with a respect, to which he was in no just sense entitled; yet amidst all the obligations under which he laid to the company that employed him, and the preservation of the character he assumed; his coward heart would not permit him to act as became a man, but compelled him to declare by his conduct, that he was as meanly timid and irresolute, as he was imperiously vain and arrogant.

However, his interest being considerable, the plea he offered in defence of his conduct was admitted, and he was restored to his former rank, in which he resumed his former arrogance and tyranny.

Soon

Soon after this success, a gallant and experienced officer arrived from England, to take upon him the command of the company's troops, and having collected all the forces that could be raised, took the field, accompanied by the gentleman who had on the late occasion signalized his valour. Such effectual measures were now pursued, that the French Commander finding all his schemes baffled in every quarter, recalled his regulars from the Indian army, determined for the future to act only in the defensive.

The French company discouraged by these repeated disasters, in order to compromise matters, sent over to a Commissary, who concluded a convention with the English, by which means, a short suspension from hostilities was brought about, that afforded our Orphan some convincing proofs of the certain connection between a tyrannical and dastardly disposition.

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From the small experience Page had acquired, he greatly preferred seasons of action to an indolent repose in times of suspension, at the different settlements in the country; for he had observed during the course of his experience, that those insolent, tyrannical fellows, who were fond of strutting on a parade, and abusing unfortunate wretches, that were subject to their arbitrary lash; always treated the soldiers with more lenity, nay affected a kind of humanity, when danger approached.

As about a years rest from the toil of marching and engaging in these sultry climes, ensued upon the late convention; it offered Page time to reflect on some circumstances that had presented themselves to his notice: we shall therefore, offer them to the Reader, as nearly as possible in his own terms as addressed to the Editor:

“ That I may not tire you, my dear friend, with a tedious detail of my own  
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fortunes,



fortunes, which I believe you will acknowledge to have been most remarkably adverse, I will endeavour to divert your mind from the melancholy scene, by a brief review of some customs and manners which prevail here, and shall then expect in return, such remarks as your good sense and experience will doubtless suggest to you on the occasion.

“ Before my departure from Europe, I fancied that pride prevailed in a superlative degree in that quarter of the globe, and perhaps with some truth, still retain my opinion ; but as the Europeans have it not in their power to display the effects of it in so glaring a manner, as the rich and powerful Indians ; I own I was struck with the pageantry of their dress, the splendour of their retinue, and the luxury of their living.

“ Nor was I less astonished at the wide disparity between the rich and the poor, in these articles ; for while the former are attired in silk, attended by numbers  
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of slaves, and pampered with every delicacy; the latter, especially among the Genttoos, go almost naked, are the veriest drudges, and live upon the coarsest fare.

“ Female vanity is very apparent in these climes, for the ladies adorn their heads with such jewels or toys as they can by any means procure; they have also jewels in their ears and noses, and sometimes stretch the hole that is bored in their ears to such an extent, that it will admit a shilling to pass through it. Their wrists and ancles are adorned with bracelets, and they have rings upon their fingers and toes, either of gold, silver, or brass.

“ There is likewise a peculiar branch of male finery in the sashes, which are generally richly embroidered, with two ends hanging before, bordered with gold or silver tissue interwoven. In these they stick, on the left side, the handles of their daggers, which are either curiously wrought or set with precious stones.

The method of travelling in palanquins, appears happily adapted to gratify their constitutional indolence, as a more lazy mode of conveyance cannot well be invented.

A Palanquin consists of a bed and bedstead covered with an ample Canopy, either of velvet or cloth, fastened by means of cross sticks and silk and cotton cords, to an arch of Bamboo, (a kind of Cane common in this Country) from the ends of which arch, proceed the poles, that are all of one peice. The person carried, may conveniently sit upright under the arch, and be bolstered up in that posture by one or two large pillows, and occasionally he may be at his length and sleep by the way.

Some of these Palanquins are rendered very expensive from the decorations employed on them, from the rich stuff with which this portable couch and its canopy are covered; also from the value of its gold or silver tassels, and the feet  
being

being carved or plated over, representing couchant lions, griffins, and other figures.

“ I observed in Bombay that they covered them, during the rains, with a kind of thatch, easily put off or on, made of the leaves of a tree, and lined with callicoe, thus forming a shelter, impenetrable by the most violent rains, and having windows that shut or open at pleasure.

“ The Moors I discovered to be extremely jealous of their women, whom they commit to the care of Eunuchs by hundreds, and some of the most wealthy, to the amount of a thousand.

“ When a man of substance travels, he usually hires eight or ten Cooleys, or chairmen, to carry his Palanquin, four of whom run at the rate of about five miles an hour, and their companions relieve them at a certain time without standing still.

“ In short, the opulent are indulged with every gratification that pride or luxury

luxury can well be imagined to desire, while the wretched poor are in general, treated with less humanity than we often practise towards the brutal creation."

After these trite and general remarks, the Editor, at the desire of his friend, thus proceeded :

"As I have always, before this voyage, been destined to China, I have only had an opportunity of observing such customs and manners, as are very different from those in these parts, and therefore have attended to your brief recital with much pleasure.

"With respect to the prevalence of pride, 'tis a quality inseparable from the human heart, and only appears more or less glaring, as opportunity may offer for its display, or it may be attempered by good sense.

"Parade and Pageantry, likewise, constitute a very great part of human life, which has therefore been very justly represented to theatric stage, on which  
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the mimic player struts his hour, and then makes his exit; as the immortal Shakespear has most beautifully delineated.

“ But of all their customs, I think their engrossing such numbers of the fair sex, has a most pernicious tendency. Nothing can certainly be more cruel, or more opposite to the benevolent intention of nature, than thus sacrificing a number of poor creatures, to the jealousy and caprice of one man, who perhaps, amidst three or four hundred, confines his embraces to a very few of them; while the rest, in the flower of their age, and with all the violence of unsatisfied desires, inspired and nursed by the heat of the climate, languish and pine in misery and gloomy discontent. Besides, this custom must be attended with the most fatal consequences, for exclusive of the injustice of rendering so many persons miserable, and the injury done to the population of the country;  
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it leads both the great and meaner sort, from very different causes, to the crime against nature; for as this practice necessarily thins society of the women, that would otherwise appear on the rank for wives, the poorer sort, from a scarcity of that sex, are led to give a most criminal turn to their passions, and betake themselves to their own; while on the other hand, the abundance of women at the command of the rich, creates satiety that produces the same effect; so that every consideration, both human and divine, serves to establish the preference of the European Law, in permitting but one wife, to the polygamy and concubinage allowed in these Eastern Countries.

“ In short, my friend, from your account and from my own observation, I am convinced, that there is universally prevalent in this part of the world, a sensuality, to which the warmth of the climate so strongly and so unhappily inclines the inhabitants, who, by this enervity

vity and relaxation, generally speaking, are rendered unsusceptible of those manly virtues, and that hardiness, constitutional to those born under the colder and rougher zones : thence, in all probability, arises the indolent and slavish acquiescence of the Eastern nations in general, with that detestable form of government, Despotism ; where neither the profusest fertility of soil, nor the Elysian temperature of the air in some parts, nor the choicest blessings of nature, can atone for the want of that greatest of all, Liberty.

“ You, my unfortunate friend, have fatally experienced the prevalence of this arbitrary disposition, even amongst your countrymen and fellow subjects, and therefore cannot but lament a state of exile from your native land, in which the mildest laws, under the best adapted constitution, secure to the happy inhabitant, his life, his property, and what is dearer than all the jewels of India, or mines of Peru, his Freedom.”

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These remarks closed this day's conference, and the Orphan and his friend parted for the present, with a mutual tear.



## C H A P. X.

Page is again called to action.—Recommends himself to the esteem of a principal officer.—Experiences a fresh instance of the ingratitude and cruelty of Vamp, in the obstruction of his preferment.—Commences an intimacy with a fellow foldier, who had undergone the same fate with himself.

**A**FTER a few days separation, in consequence of intervening business, the Orphan and Editor, repeated their interview, and prosecuted their converse in the usual manner.

“ Notwithstanding the suspension, occasioned by the success of the English arms  
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against those of the enemy, the latter acted in such a manner, as to convince every intelligent beholder, that the tranquillity was not founded on so solid a basis, as they might at first have expected ; for in direct violation of the provisional treaty, they endeavoured to acquire the dominion of several provinces, and the French Commander sent an insolent letter to the governor of Madrafs, filled with menaces, and arrogating a superior right to precedence in those Eastern climes.

“ As it was now evident beyond a doubt, that the French were seeking a pretence for rekindling the war on the coast of Coromandel ; the different garisons were reinforced, and the necessary preparations made for defending all the places of essential importance to the interest of the English company.

But their endeavours proved wholly ineffectual ; for the French Commander, having received the additional strength of five hundred Europeans, reduced,  
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with the utmost rapidity, three English factories on that coast, amongst which was Visigapatam, that put them in possession of the most considerable part of that territory.

“Nor did these misfortunes come alone, for while the French were thus extending their conquests on the Coromandel coast, their allies were equally successful in Bengal, the Nabob of which had been spirited up by them, to extirpate the English factories within his dominions, under various slight pretences.”

It was Page's lot to be sent with his corps to Calcutta, which was invested by that Nabob, and obliged to surrender to his superior force. However, he exerted himself with such unabated ardour in his private station, that he attracted the notice of a principal officer belonging to the same regiment, and from that circumstance would have obtained preferment, had not the infamous Vamp,  
conscious

conscious of his own villainy, prevented the same, lest he should thereby in process of time be publicly exposed as the meanest and most cruel of wretches.

This gentleman, whom we shall call Captain Worthy, having observed during the time of his being in the fort of Calcutta, that Page went through his military duty with remarkable spirit and agility, as well as discovered in his mien and department an air superior to vulgar breeding; sent his servant after they had quitted that place, to order him to attend him at his quarters. Our Orphan obeyed, and was gratified with the Captain's approbation of his conduct and person, as well as surprized at the manner in which he treated him, being so different from that he had been accustomed to from the supercilious upstarts in command, who had embraced every opportunity of perverting their power to distress and mortify him.

At the request of this humane officer, he ran through the series of misfortunes

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he had undergone, from the fatal hour in which he was decoyed by the infamous seducer, to the present moment; and recapitulated his sufferings in so manly a tone, and yet with such apparent sensation of the many indignities offered him, that the gallant Worthy could not refrain the generous tear, nor withhold, notwithstanding their great inequality in point of rank, an indication of the most affecting concern, while the unfortunate youth was recounting his melancholy tale, which he had no sooner finished, than he thus addressed him :

‘ Hapless, but valuable young man,  
 ‘ I sincerely pity your hard, your most  
 ‘ extraordinary case, which is as affecting  
 ‘ as it is peculiar, and needs but to be  
 ‘ known to excite the sympathy of every  
 ‘ compassionate bosom. You may comfort  
 ‘ yourself with an assurance, that in  
 ‘ me you shall find a friend, a patron  
 ‘ and defender; for it has been my business,

'ness, during my residence in these re-  
 ' mote parts, to succour and cherish  
 ' such persons as I find worthy my no-  
 ' tice and regard; therefore dispel all  
 ' gloomy and melancholy thoughts, and  
 ' hope that a better fate will attend  
 ' the residue of your days. I will hence-  
 ' forward interest myself in your welfare,  
 ' and endeavour by action to prove the  
 ' sense I retain of your undeserved  
 ' woes.'

This incident in some measure revived  
 the drooping spirits of our Orphan, and  
 encouraged him to hope, that the cloud  
 of adverse fortune was ready to be dis-  
 pelled, in order to give way to the sun-  
 shine of prosperity. He received a pe-  
 culiar satisfaction, even from the distant  
 prospect of being put upon a level with  
 men of breeding, and thereby exempted  
 from the insolent taunts of many des-  
 picable creatures in office, which to his  
 elevated mind were more grievous than  
 all the sufferings, to which his des-  
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perate situation could possibly subject him.

Thus revived, he passed a considerable time with some degree of complacency, daily expecting the interposition of Captain Worthy in his behalf, and a happy deliverance from the wretched condition under which he had groaned during four tedious years.

He frequently indulged his fancy, and gave way to the pleasing thoughts of being put upon a reputable footing, and achieving some exploit as might further his promotion and tend to signalize his name.

Sometimes he would suffer himself to be captivated with the enraptured view of revisiting his native country, loaded with the spoils of its enemies, adorned with honourable scars, and possessed of military renown. At other times he would fondly realize an interview with his disconsolate sister, and affectionate uncle, enjoying at the same moment the heart-fetched, congratulating tear.

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These delusive expectations, and air-born hopes frequently raised him above his rank and situation, produced a temporary oblivion of his abject state, and enabled him to speak and act with that freedom, for which he had been remarkable, before he was unfortunately circumscribed by the most servile restraint.

But these hours of visionary enjoyment served but to embitter his future life, and aggravate the enormous load of affliction he seemed destined to bear: Captain Worthy indeed, far from receding from his promise, had exerted his utmost endeavours to procure his removal into his company, in order to pave the way for more important services; but Vamp affected disgust at such conduct, and thereby prevented him from accomplishing this part of his design.

Failing in this attempt, that benevolent officer recommended him in a proper and deserving light to some gentlemen

men of the Council, intimating his capacity for serving the company in a much superior station, and the disgrace of suffering a young man of education, and endowed with genuine courage, to languish in so wretched a state of obscurity.

These benevolent endeavours to serve an unfortunate and deserving youth might have succeeded, as one of the gentlemen of the Council promised to lay his case before the board, in order to procure him some mercantile employ, or a commission in a military corps; but his evil genius still haunted him, and by malicious insinuations obviated every attempt to effect his promotion.

Captain Worthy at length, equally astonished and incensed at the ungenerous conduct of Vamp, in thus rancorously endeavouring to frustrate all the means he used, to ease a hapless youth of his oppressive load, took upon him to remonstrate with the brute on the disingenuity of such a disposition, and insist  
that

that he would no longer interest himself in a cause that could not but reflect disgrace upon him, and incur the odium of every benevolent mind. Vamp indeed removed all grounds for any further token of Worthy's resentment, by an affected taciturnity, though he took the most effectual method to thwart his efforts, by informing all the English officers present, of the transaction at Bombay, and thereby prejudicing them against Page, whom he still viewed with an eye of jealousy.

As the unfortunate Youth by this compulsive deed had proclaimed himself a liar, and had no opportunity of exculpating himself from this part of his conduct, by a proper representation of his case; no means could prevent the malignant design of Vamp, who had wrought both the officers and gentlemen of the council into so firm a belief of what he most maliciously averred, that they spurned the recommendation  
of



of Captain Worthy with a degree of contempt, giving him to understand their concern, that a person of his rank should degrade himself by espousing the cause of so notorious a scoundrel.

All the hope our Orphan could now reasonably indulge was, that a well directed ball, or some nervous arm, might in the future course of adventures rid him of so implacable an enemy, and pave the way for the good offices of Captain Worthy.

Thus deprived even of the most distant expectation of a change in his circumstances, poor Page was reduced to his former state of despair, and consequently relapsed into his former state of grief and melancholy.

The joyous scene was transient and visionary, but the gloomy prospect was durable and real; he had only resumed the man in idea, but was in truth the very slave; he had viewed his native land through the delusive glass of fond fancy;

fancy ; but the faithful mirrour presented to his tortured mind, perpetual exile ; he had indulged an imaginary interview with his friends and relatives, but reason now could not admit him even to think of beholding them more. Upon the whole, from the hapless event, he was induced most ardently to wish that he had never attracted the notice of Captain Worthy, as his generous designs had been thus maliciously obstructed, and his own fond expectations totally baffled, by the vile means of a rancorous scoundrel, who seemed to have been born to afflict and torture him.

During this scene of dejection, in consequence of his fatal disappointment, his extraordinary emotions were observed by a fellow soldier, with whom he had been occasionally placed as centinal.

As this person had shared the same fate with himself, received an education superior to the vulgar class, and possessed an exalted soul and elevated temper  
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of mind, he could not fail of improving even the present melancholy occasion of joining in social converse, which he had found so very rare and extraordinary in this part of the Globe. Realizing therefore as it were the case of our Orphan, he thus bespoke him.

‘ If, fellow soldier, from my own experience and knowledge of the world, I can discern causes by their effects, your condition and mine bear the nearest resemblance. I was once blessed with the pleasing prospect of a social, tranquil life, amidst all the comforts that opulence can afford, and all the complacency, that results from the universal esteem of my friends and acquaintance; but an accursed hour snatched me from the pleasing scene, and ushered in a state of wretchedness, that can only terminate with my life. In short, I was seduced by one of those execrable wretches, who live upon the wages of the basest fraud, and scruple  
‘ not

' not for hire, to consign to mise-  
 ' ry, numberless unfortunate, innocent  
 ' youths. I am here in the abject state  
 ' of a common soldier, daily mortified  
 ' by the taunts of insolent officers, and  
 ' exposed to the scurrilous treatment of  
 ' the lowest rabble. To aggravate my  
 ' misfortunes, I lately lost a friend,  
 ' whose kind offices and social converse  
 ' were my only support amidst a torrent  
 ' of woes, and am thereby bereft of all  
 ' that could alleviate my distress, or af-  
 ' ford the least allay to the tortures that  
 ' now incessantly rend my throbbing  
 ' bosom.

' As the most genuine sympathy must  
 ' arise from a similitude of circum-  
 ' stances, as well as sentiment, the emo-  
 ' tions which agitate your mind, have ex-  
 ' cited all my tender feelings, and an  
 ' affecting sense of your miseries has ad-  
 ' ded to my own. Deign therefore hap-  
 ' less youth, to unbosom yourself to an  
 ' unfortunate but generous stranger, and  
 ' let

‘ let us from the present hour commence  
 ‘ a friendship founded on the noblest  
 ‘ and most disinterested principles, even  
 ‘ the tie of humanity, and that laudable  
 ‘ desire which results therefrom, of com-  
 ‘ municating and participating mutual  
 ‘ good. If I mistake not, you are form-  
 ‘ ed for the most exalted offices of socie-  
 ‘ ty, and though thus disguised under  
 ‘ an abject character and despicable  
 ‘ garb, I cannot but persuade myself,  
 ‘ you are adapted by nature and erudi-  
 ‘ tion, to relish all the delights that flow  
 ‘ from refined sentiment, and those ex-  
 ‘ quisite sensations that can only be pro-  
 ‘ duced by conscious virtue.’

Our Orphan beheld his fellow soldier  
 with a mixture of pleasure, amazement,  
 and concern, and was so enraptured at  
 finding a person of such extraordinary  
 understanding and rectitude of judgment,  
 in that place and in that situation, that  
 he was for some time incapable of disco-  
 vering the sense he retained of so gene-  
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rous behaviour; till at length with a countenance that indicated the state of his mind, he thus broke forth:

“ I am at a loss, excellent stranger, to describe the manner in which I am affected by the present scene, as well as to express the warmth with which I accept your friendly proposal. Your conjecture relative to the similarity of our condition, is founded upon too stable a certainty; for I, together with you, enjoyed all the happiness that the fluctuating state of human life can possibly admit; I possessed a competence; I was blessed with, the esteem of relatives and acquaintance and could view the pleasing prospect of being an honour to my name and family, and a benefit to Mankind: but alas! together with you, an unfortunate hour banished all my fond hopes, and consigned me to the blackest despair. I fell a prey to one of those barbarous villains, and was sold by the miscreant, to the slavery under which you behold me. Since my departure from my native

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country,



country, I have found some humane friends, but cruel fate has separated me from them, or prevented the services they kindly designed me. With you I have experienced the insults of wretches in power, and the abuse of the vulgar: with you therefore, I heartily sympathize, and will maintain the proffered friendship, till death shall charitably release one of us from misery and bondage."

Thus ended this extraordinary and unexpected conference, which cemented the warmest friendship between two noble and generous minds, and added to other instances of the prevalence of sublime principles, under every situation of human life.

## C H A P. XI.

An incident occurs in favour of Trusty and our Orphan.—Is succeeded by the death of the former.—Captain Worthy interposes in behalf of Page, but is again frustrated in his design through means of the infamous Vamp.—Reflections on merit and its general reward in foreign parts.

**A**S exalted minds enter more rapidly and closely into the connections of friendship, than those of a vulgar stamp; our Orphan and his friend Trusty (so by that name we shall call him) were respectively convinced of the sincerity of their professions, by the generous ardour with which they were made; in short, they were as inviolably attached to each other, as if their friendship had been confirmed by a series of mutual good offices.

But as yet they had only the will, without the power of promoting essentially their mutual interest; their station was mean, their finances were low, nor did they dare to remonstrate with their superiors on the indignities to which they were daily exposed. In a short time however, Trusty through the favour of his Captain, who had remarked his merit, was preferred to the rank of a serjeant, which exempted him from the more disagreeable parts of duty, as well as augmented his pay. Nor did he fail of giving immediate demonstration of the sincerity of his esteem for the unfortunate Page, not only in relieving him occasionally from rigorous services, but by joining his pay to the allowance of his friend, and sharing with him the benefit of his promotion.

Though the additional finances of Trusty amounted to no considerable sum, they procured them divers things which tended to cherish and revive their spirits, and thereby enabled them to sustain their  
fate

fate with more composure and resignation, than they possibly could do, when both in the ordinary rank; and as a mitigation is all that can be expected, where losses are irreparable, this trivial amendment of circumstances consoled the generous sufferers, and though not an adequate, was an acceptable compensation for former deficiencies.

Relying on the stability of their mutual friendship, and encouraged by the late favourable incident, they promised themselves at least some intervals of pleasure, amidst the numerous and poignant troubles from which they could not be exempted, through the nature of their situation, and the casualties to which they were continually liable. But Page, whose distresses seem to have been peculiar to himself, was soon deprived of this ray of hope, and plunged into his late piteous state of despair.

As the English determined to retaliate on their foes the injuries they had so lately sustained from them, Calcutta was in-

vested by a gallant officer, who carried on the attack with such vigour and intrepidity, as contributed to the sudden reduction of that settlement, but not before a ball, winged with the fate of the brave and generous Trusty, swept him from the view of our disconsolate Orphan, who could not but upbraid his lot, in being as it were the sportive tool of fortune, the very mark and butt of misadventure. He as sincerely desired to follow his friend, as he lamented his loss, and stimulated by the hope that the same kind fate would soon rid him of a toil somelife, he determined on the first opportunity that offered, to rush into imminent danger, preferring even the most painful death, to an existence desperate beyond conception.

Accordingly, when the officer who had lately reduced Calcutta marched against the viceroy of Bengal, and a warm engagement ensued; our despairing Orphan seemed to court danger, and even death itself; atchieving in his own per-  
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son prodigies of valour, and bravely animating his fellow soldiers to demonstrate by their prowess, a spirit superior to the ungenerous treatment they universally received.

Here his valour was again observed by Captain Worthy, who retained a high esteem for his personal merit, and waited an opportunity for renewing his application in his behalf, hoping, as a recent display of his desert would certainly justify his interposition, he might not a second time labour to serve him in vain.

When the English therefore, by dint of arms, procured liberty to fortify Calcutta, and Page amongst others was stationed in that settlement; the humane officer applied to the commander of the company's forces, as well as the council, entreating them to examine the unfortunate youth as to his capacity and disposition, nor suffer him to languish under an obscurity, from which he had so strenuously endeavoured to emerge.

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The Commander, who owed his preferment to the most demonstrative proofs of undaunted resolution, was greatly pleased with the notice Captain Worthy had taken of Page, and assured him, that nothing should be wanting on his part to effect his preferment, but that he could on no pretence act in the most trivial point, without the concurrence and approbation of the council.

The friend of our Orphan, encouraged by this assurance, again waited on that respectable body, and in the most pathetic manner represented his case as highly worthy of their regard, boldly insinuating the disgrace they would reflect on themselves as men and Englishmen, by suffering a fellow subject, qualified for signal services in life, to continue in the most abject situation, especially as it was the effect of the vilest fraud.

This remonstrance excited in the more humane part of them, a compassion for the youth, whose cause he so strenuously pleaded, and extorted from them a promise,

mife, that his cafe fhould be taken into confideration ; but the ferpent ftill lurked in the grafs, and had only withheld his venom, till he could difcharge it with greater fpleen and efficacy on the haplefs youth, for whom he had conceived fo groundlefs and implacable an averfion.

When a certain gentleman, (to whose honour the circumftance is mentioned, at the particular request of the unfortunate fubject of this narrative) had propofed to Page his choice, either of a pair of colours in the Englifh army, or a feat among the Company's accomptants, and he for juft reafons, after acknowledging the obligation with the warmeft gratitude, had fixed on the latter, and was juft on the point of being delivered from his abject ftate, and equipped in a decent garb, through the liberality of his worthy patron ; a letter was prefented to the council by the hands of Major Vamp, who having by this time obtained preferment, as well as a confiderable acceffion

to his influence, desired they would peruse the contents, before they conferred any favours upon a fellow, whom he heard Captain Worthy had recommended to their notice, lest they should prostitute their respect on a wretch the least deserving of any in the whole service.

This produced not only a suspension, but an absolute prevention of the good offices both of Captain Worthy and the gentleman, who, at his instigation, had undertaken to patronize the distressed youth; for as Vamp's interest was exceeding high, through the recommendation of the old merchant in London, at the expence of his sister's prostitution, his declaration passed as valid, and together with a recapitulation of the affair at Bombay, which he quoted whenever he found it conducive to the promotion of his malevolent designs, effectually obstructed the preferment of our Orphan, and fixed him in his despicable rank for life.

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This last and most affecting disappointment, brought on a disorder which at length kindly delivered him from a state under which he had groaned several years, and which, from his unparalleled fate, had been to him during that space, a constant source of woe and misery.

The present case suggests to us a reflection, which perhaps has been confirmed by the experience of some of our readers, and may not be unacceptable to others.

“ The common bait laid to deceive the unwary and allure them into the noose of foreign service, especially in this part of the world, is a pompous proposal of mighty advantages certainly accruing from these random expeditions. To enforce this temptation, it is the universal practice of the hireling seducers to enumerate those persons who have acquired immense fortunes by fighting the battles of their honourable employers; but this, on due consideration, will appear

pear rather an obstruction than a motive; for the vast sums lavished on those very persons, or usurped by them in consequence of their superior rank, is the real cause of the inadequate rewards generally arising from the service. In short, simple merit without recommendation, rarely attracts the notice of the great here any more than in any other part of the world, and the same action is magnified and extolled in one person, merely because he is that person, which in another would either be totally obscured, or deemed the meer performance of an incumbent duty, and nothing more than labour in consideration of wages.

These are the tricks and chicaneries which, amongst others, are used by the infamous tools of more infamous employers, to enslave free born Englishmen; and as they are known truths, confirmed by daily experience, cannot be too clearly detected, or too fully exploded, for the common benefit of our fellow subjects."

C H A P.

## C H A P. XII.

Solemn charge from the Orphan to the Editor immediately preceding his Death.—Fatal effects resulting from his unfortunate case.—Useful reflections, and necessary cautions offered to the youth of this Metropolis, as enforced by the subject of the present narrative.

**A**S it was necessary in the introductory part of this detail, to relate the manner in which the Orphan and Editor were affected by the unexpected interview, that fell out soon after the former had sustained the loss of his sincere and valuable friend; we shall pass over that circumstance, and content ourselves with observing some incidents that attended his happy dismissal from a life, which protracted, served only to increase his wretchedness. The grief of mind

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under which Page long laboured, had brought on a nervous disorder, about three years before his death, and so excessively preyed upon his vital frame, that though naturally of a very hale constitution, at the age of twenty five he bore all the marks of forty, and by a pale countenance and meagre form, plainly discovered the ravaging effects of the most excruciating torture of soul.

About two months after the arrival of the Editor at the settlement of Calcutta, during which time on different occasions, he received from his unfortunate friend, the substance of the plain account now offered to the public; Page, finding by the rapid increase of his disorder, that his dissolution approached, determined to unbosom himself to one on whose truth he might rely, and to whose future report he might commit the disastrous consequences which arise from a practice, that reflects the highest disgrace on the legislature of a country, which boasts its freedom

freedom above all the nations upon earth.

On an occasional interview, therefore, he thus addressed him :

“ My dear Friend, as, during the short time of your residence in this place, you have confirmed by many acts of generosity and benevolence, the affection which subsisted between us in our earliest and I may venture add, happiest days ; you are the only person to whom I can disclose the secrets of my soul, before my departure hence, and whom I can most solemnly enjoin to lay my case, as I have briefly related it, before the world, in order to expose the fallacy which prevails in it, and caution the unwary from the snares that are laid to trepan them into slavery, and every degree of misery, by which reasonable beings can be rendered deplorable beyond description. You are an eye witness to my present state ; you are sensible that I have been gradually, though not instantaneously massacred ; I owe my death to the vile fraud of the  
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basest of men, and my blood will cry for vengeance on the villain who betrayed me.

“ By all the bonds of friendship, by all the ties of humanity, by all the obligations of justice, by every consideration civil and sacred, I conjure you, if providence should permit you to revisit your native land, to proclaim aloud the sufferings, the disgraces, yea the tortures, which free-born Englishmen undergo in these distant climes, to which they are transported, not like the felon, by the award of his country's laws, but as innocent, through the craft and design of cruel and avaricious miscreants. Find out my affectionate uncle and darling sister, if still living, and reveal that which doubtless they have long laboured to discover, even the hapless cause that separated me from them, and consigned both them and me to future despair. Be the protector of the disconsolate fair one, and console my aged relative, with an assurance, that though my fate has been disastrous

disastrous beyond comparison, I have never departed from the precepts and example of my honoured parents, but have retained my integrity to the hour of my death.

“ If you can collect your thoughts, you may form a little volume of what has passed between us, and I flatter myself, that though it may not abound with the flights and sallies of modern novelists; yet as it will be founded upon facts, tend to display the merit of character, and expose a most glaring act of injustice, and flagrant violation of the constitutional rights of Britons; it will be acceptable to every mind that can feel for the distresses of others, and claim the attention of those who read, not to inflame their vicious passions, to gratify their vanity, or indulge an impertinent curiosity; but to improve their understanding by useful knowledge, and rectify their lives by virtuous principles. The theme of human nature is ample and various, the system of morals is large and co-

pious; our joint endeavours therefore to investigate them, may contribute among others to promote the noblest purposes of rational beings, and if we inspire but one breast with sublime and generous sentiments, we shall not have lived in vain."

"I feel with pleasure my relief approaching, and rejoice in the prospect of that state of existence, where very different principles and characters shall prevail, from those which bear sway in this transient scene of mortality, where an invariable regard will be paid to mental rectitude, and those will be most dignified, who have acted most consistently with the maxims of eternal truth, by which all merit and precedence will be finally tried, and proportionably rewarded."

Soon after this address, our Orphan expired in the arms of his friend, with great calmness and composure, and added to other proofs, that conscious integrity can alone support, under the last  
and

and most important trial incident to human nature.

The Editor, in less than twelve months after this extraordinary circumstance, arrived in England, and pursuant to the request of his deceased friend, made most diligent search for his uncle and sister, but could obtain no tidings for a considerable time, till having applied to the person in London, to whose care the unfortunate Page had been committed, he received an account almost as striking as the former.

From this gentleman he learned, that the uncle of our Orphan, almost distracted by his loss, and incensed with him, though unjustly, as the cause of it, had withdrawn all confidence from him, and abandoned a friendship which had subsisted most cordially between them for a number of years; that his grief brought on a disorder which hastened his death; and that having committed the care of his orphan niece to a neighbour of bad principles, who by fraudulent means  
had



had conciliated his esteem ; he squandered away her fortune and left her to the wide world, so that she died in the very bloom of life oppressed with grief, occasioned by the cruel fate of an affectionate brother, and the dire consequences which attended it.

Thus one single incident proved the ruin of a family, and was the accursed cause of complicated and most aggravated woes, to several persons who merited universal esteem, and were disposed to every act of generosity and benevolence.

To state the evils and enumerate the miseries which flow from this injurious custom of kidnapping, or the seducing ignorant or intoxicated persons into remote services, as far transcends the power of the Editor, as it would exceed the compass of his volume ; it can only therefore be here represented, as the source of personal and relative misery, as a violation of the laws of this kingdom, and in  
short

short as murder, eventually considered.

No plea arising from the preservation of property, can justify actions repugnant to the general interest and happiness of society; we are not to extend or defend our possessions by robbery and rapine; and what robbery can be more atrocious, or what rapine more destructive, than that which affects not only the property, (as is sometimes the case) but the internal peace, nay, the very lives of our fellow subjects? Providence has wisely connected mankind by relative ties, and a peculiar affection that is founded on consanguinity, in order to influence those whose minds are not susceptible of sublimer considerations: those, therefore who seek by any means to dissolve these connections so essential to the interest of society, are guilty of a most atrocious crime, in the eye both of God and man.

As this abominable practice has too generally prevailed of late, nay, as there  
has

has been too just ground to suspect, that several have lost their lives before they have been consigned to servitude, through the cruel treatment of merciless wretches; it becomes the duty of every one, who loves his country and his fellow subjects, to explode as much as possible such scandalous measures, however they may be adopted by the rich and powerful. Permit me therefore Reader, at the close of this narrative, to offer some reflections and cautions, that may be happily preventive of the misery which must inevitably fall on those, who are trepanned into the clutches of those myrmidons called Kidnappers.

We have seen a flagrant instance of the dire consequences which have attended their base arts, in the case of a youth of property, capacity and virtue; an instance which demonstrates a complicated robbery, and a complicated murder; in as much as he was deprived of his fortune, and the world of a useful member, and as it proved not only the cause of his  
own

own death, but brought his disconsolate relatives to an untimely end.

It is therefore recommended to the unwary and innocent of every degree, to bear upon their minds the case of the unfortunate Page, and not only to shun dissolute company, but to avoid compliance with any polite proposals, if made by strangers. Various are the arts employed by these villains, so that young persons should always be suspicious of the design of any stranger that may accost them, and turn a deaf ear to every insinuation that may appear even of the most innocent tendency. In a word, the best and plainest advice that can be given, is to remind young persons, that these pests of society assume all forms and frequent all places, that they try all measures illusive, and forcible; and therefore, that the most probable means of preventing their damnable designs will be, a constant remembrance of the circumstance before them, and a determined resolution to attend to no offices of courtesy,

courtesy, to no suggestions of profit or pleasure, to no menaces of harm, if proceeding from persons, with whom they are not acquainted. Remember the unfortunate Page; remember that miscreants still lay in wait to bring on you the same misery, and that will be the best method of avoiding their fatal snares.



FINIS.



